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Britain's newspaper for Europe

The Guardian EUROPE



G2 with European weather



Polly Toynbee, this section page 8

Anne Perkins, G2 page 4

Brown's survival plan

Larry Elliott and Michael White

THE Chancellor, Gordon Brown, last night rejected predictions that Britain is being drawn into a deepening world recession when he unveiled an upbeat Treasury forecasting scenario which will see the economy bounce back from the current downturn within two years.

In his annual Pre-Budget Report, Mr Brown laced this upbeat assessment of growth prospects next year with a £250 million package to prevent a winter crisis in the NHS and unveiled a series of measures aimed at closing the UK's efficiency gap with the rest of the world.

"The background to this report is the global downturn, which started in Asia and which has reverberated throughout every continent," Mr Brown said.

"It has not only shifted the balance of risks in the world economy from fears about inflation to fears about growth, but has forced every country, every continent, every financial institution to cut their estimates for growth."

With the Treasury expecting the Bank of England's monetary policy committee to cut interest rates over the coming months, the Chancellor said he was cutting his growth forecast for 1999 from the 1.75-2.25 per cent expected at the time of the March Budget to 1-1.5 per cent, higher than most independent forecasters are predicting.

Mr Brown said Britain was in better shape to withstand the impact of the global downturn than in the early 1990s, adding that the strength of the public finances meant there was no need to scale down his £40 billion boost to health and education spending over the next three years. The Treasury's forecasts for spending and borrowing are being based on the more pessimistic of the two forecasts for next year.

The Chancellor stressed that the real need was to improve Britain's long-term economic performance, and sketched out his equivalent of the Conservative supply-side reforms of the 1980s in a bid to boost productivity.

Looking ahead to next spring's Budget, the Chancellor proposed tax breaks to encourage small businesses to invest, a shake-up of planning law to help Britain create its own silicon valleys, an investigation into the problems faced by firms in securing bank finance, incentives for research and development and £25 million to create of eight new institutes of enterprise in British universities.

The Chancellor added that the public sector would also be expected to raise its game, with new performance targets and a drive to stamp out absenteeism, which costs the state £6 billion a year.

Announcing plans to provide tax breaks for employee share ownership, Mr Brown said: "I want to remove, once and for all, the old 'them and us' culture in British industry.

"I want to encourage the new enterprise culture of team work in which everyone contributes and everyone benefits from success".

As a sign of the Government's determination to cut welfare bills and encourage work, the Chancellor extended the Working Families Tax Credit — the centrepiece of this year's Budget — to the disabled.

He told MPs that a disabled person, with one child, moving from benefits to work would have a minimum income of £220 a week, and would pay no tax on income below £274 a week.

Green lobbyists were disappointed by Mr Brown's softly-softly approach to environmental taxation, despite a call for an energy tax on firms in an official report — published yesterday — by BA chairman, Lord Marshall.

The upbeat tone of the report prompted William Hague and his shadow chancellor, Francis Maude, to condemn "Peter Pan economics" based on "fantasy forecasting" by a chancellor "in denial" of reality. "You sit there grinning and smiling while all the constituents of your colleagues, whose jobs and livelihoods are on the line, will be disgusted by your complacency and your arrogance," said Mr Maude.

Unabashed, the Chancellor swept the criticism aside by comparing Labour's performance on inflation, interest rates and borrowing with the Tory legacy since the 1989-92 recession. The Tory attempt to make an issue of a non-existent £36 billion "black hole" in his spending plans was "an escalator into absurdity," he insisted.

Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrats' spokesman, warned that the high level of sterling was damaging manufacturing. "Has there not been a gap between diagnosis and cure," asked Mr Bruce who joked that Mr Brown had recycled a lot of policy. "We believe in recycling," he quipped.

The Tories are much harsher, believing that Mr Brown will break his own promises of openness, both his "golden rule" on borrowing and his commitment to reduce debt as a share of GNP. Mr Brown is adamant that both will be met.

Pre-budget report, 12; Polly Toynbee, page 8; Leader comment, page 9



Gordon Brown leaving the Treasury yesterday. He gave an upbeat assessment of growth prospects next year PHOTOGRAPH: FIONA HANSON

Budget points

- New Deal places; 120 IT training centres to tackle skill shortages
- Tax breaks to encourage employee share ownership, research and development, small and medium sized companies and energy efficiency
- Review of banks' services to new businesses
- Possible 2p cut in car tax for small, clean cars
- "Family friendly" working practices including enhanced child care provision
- 10p income tax starting rate "when economically right to do so"



US electors deliver verdict on Clinton

Martin Kettle in Washington

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton seemed to be winning a grudging but decisive electoral reprieve late last night, as American voters resisted last minute Republican pleas to treat yesterday's midterm elections as a referendum on his suitability to remain in the White House.

With a large majority of voters staying away from the polls, and the results in doubt in as few as 40 of the 469 congressional seats at stake, the elections were delivering a "not proven" verdict on Mr Clinton.

As he celebrated "six very good years" at the White House yesterday, Mr Clinton ducked questions on whether the elections were an unofficial plebiscite on his presidency — but the expected "no change" congressional results are likely to signal the eventual failure of Republican attempts to impeach the American leader over the Monica Lewinsky affair.

As counting began in the races for all 435 places in the House of Representatives, 34 Senate seats and 36 of the 50 state governorships, most observers predicted a night of limited overall gains for the Republicans, partly offset by a handful of trophy victories for Mr Clinton's Democrats.

"We're going to win an election today," the Republican House Speaker, Newt Gingrich, said as he voted in his Georgia constituency. He predicted Republican gains of between six and 30 seats in the House and of two to six seats in the Senate.

The White House was expected to wait until today before pronouncing the failure of Mr Gingrich's $10 million (£6 million) campaign to mobilise the voters in support of Mr Clinton's impeachment. The Democratic spin machine showed its confidence over the outcome when Mr Clinton's press secretary, Joe Lockhart, forecast "modest but not significant" Republican gains.

The Republicans are defending a 228-207 majority in the outgoing House of Representatives and a 55-45 advantage in the 100-member Senate. The party controlling the White House has not made midterm gains in the House since 1934, when Franklin Roosevelt was president.

The final pre-election national poll, for CBS television, showed a late push by the Democrats to wrest a narrow lead from their Republican opponents, in line with other polls. Among likely voters, 49 per cent supported the Democrats, with 48 per cent backing the Republicans, according to the poll.

The Republicans ended their high-spending campaign with a saturation 17-state television assault on Mr Clinton designed to mobilise the party faithful. "Should we reward not telling the truth?" a party advertisement told voters. "That is the question of this election. Reward Bill Clinton. Or vote Republican."

Mr Clinton spent the last day of his last electoral campaign in the White House, promoting the latest buoyant US economic figures and discussing the latest tensions in the Gulf. Earlier, he had been working on mobilising the support of black America, a traditional Democratic power base. He was "both confident and apprehensive", he told one interviewer.

Overall turnout was expected to be extremely light, with some observers predicting an even lower level of participation than the record of 36 per cent set in 1986 and 1990. But polling was expected to be much higher in some of the closest fought races, such as California, where a turnout of more than 60 per cent was being forecast.

With the two parties neck-and-neck in the polls, much depended on the ability of the respective party machines to mobilise their core supporters on a day of generally poor weather, traditionally held to favour the more prosperous Republicans.

With several races widely judged too close to call, the role of postal absentee votes was also likely to play a crucial role in a number of contests.

Texas Republican governor George W Bush was expected to win re-election last night, giving him a springboard for a presidential nomination bid in two years. His second son Jeb was the favourite to capture the governorship of Florida from the Democrats.

At least one colourful political career came to an end, when Democrat Anthony Williams replaced Washington's controversial four-term mayor Marion Barry.

Fighting dirty in New York, page 7; Jonathan Freedland, page 8

Finally, the turbulent soul of English poetry is laid to rest

John Ezard at a moving funeral service for Ted Hughes on the edge of Dartmoor

TED Hughes, the Poet Laureate, was laid to rest yesterday in a mid-Devon town so peaceful and at a service so gentle that it was impossible for those there to imagine any unquiet sleep for even his turbulent spirit.

Last rites were said over him in the tiny parish church at North Tawton, on the edge of Dartmoor, his family home for 30 years. Two hundred private mourners heard his friend the Nobel prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney resplendently evoke the shock and sorrow at his premature death five days ago from colonic cancer at the age of 68.

"You have to go back to the death of Dylan Thomas or Lorca to find a time which so expresses that moment when a poet's death is expressed as a breach in nature," Heaney said.

Through this death, "his England is now the England of Langland, Shakespeare and Hopkins". He had become an honoured part of the span of English poetry from Langland's early work about the land, Piers Plowman, through to the muscular 19th century verse of Gerard Manley Hopkins and beyond.

"No death outside my immediate family has left me feeling more bereft. No death in my lifetime has hurt poets more. He was a tower of tenderness and strength — a great arch under which the least of poetry's children could enter and feel secure.

"His creative powers were, as Shakespeare said, still crescent. By his death, the veil of poetry is rent and the walls of learning are broken," Heaney said.

To express Hughes's family's sense of the "peremptory unfairness" of this loss, he read Dylan Thomas's poem to his father Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night. But to express the bonds his friend had established in this small neck of Devon he also read Hughes's Go Fishing, dedicated to Jack Orchard, local farmer and late father of the poet's second wife Carol, who was in full Victorian veil.

North Tawton is a small, plain white-washed time capsule of an immediately post-war English town. Cottages huddle around the graveyard of St Peter's Church. Behind the counters of its several miniscule bank branches, which still open only part-time, one could hope to find Captain Mainwaring sitting.

Recently, one of these branches applied to put up the town's first electric sign. The town council replied sharply that this was unnecessary, since the bank did not open at night. Yesterday one local boasted that there was only one "modern building in town".

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Ted Hughes's coffin arrives at the small Devon church

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In G2 Europe society pages today: What chance of success at the Buenos Aires global climate conference?

+ How Ted Hughes turned the chocolate-box view of Nature on its head

Ron Davies: sixth arrest made

Police say Guardian blackmail report 'pretty much full story'

Will Woodward and Ewen MacAskill

A SIXTH person was arrested in connection with the robbery of Ron Davies yesterday as police sources confirmed that a Guardian report gave the fullest account yet of the events leading to his resignation as Welsh Secretary.

The man, in his 20s, was arrested by police at about 1pm in Brixton and was being detained at a south London police station, Scotland Yard said.

The Guardian's report yesterday — which said that Mr Davies had agreed to meet a man who was attempting to blackmail him after the MP allegedly made a gay sexual advance on Clapham Common — was described by one police source as "pretty much the full story".

The former Welsh Secretary, after a week of torrid media coverage, returned to a hiding place in England with his wife Christine and daughter Angharad after delivering an emotional personal statement to the Commons on Monday. Friends said he regarded the statement as a success and is not planning any further public statements or interviews over the next fortnight.

But with large parts of the affair still unresolved, his circle began an inquest into the handling of Mr Davies' dramatic resignation last Tuesday evening. They said the the resignation letter issued in Mr Davies's name had been a disaster.

A source close to Mr Davies said it fell between two strategies: he should either have made a clean breast of it or described it as a private matter, in effect saying nothing. But by offering a sketchy account of what had happened on Clapham Common he had created a media frenzy.

Huw Roberts, one of Mr Davies's special advisers at the Welsh Office, also complained that civil servants had denied him access to his minister for a crucial 36 hours.

Mr Roberts, who had been at home in Wales on holiday, heard about the resignation on Tuesday afternoon and immediately phoned Mr Davies's private office at the Welsh Office but he was denied any contact with Mr Davies.

Mr Roberts said: "While it is understandable that they would seek to protect their outgoing minister against the torrent of applications from the media, one would have hoped the different relationship between a special adviser and a minister would have allowed them to ensure that contact was made. It was a crucial period."

Mr Roberts praised the supportive role of Tony Blair and his chief press officer, Alastair Campbell, who have been speaking to Mr Davies on a daily basis. But Mr Roberts is among those who believe the resignation letter was a mistake. Mr Campbell had a hand in the resignation letter but Downing Street had no regrets yesterday, insisting that Mr Davies had not wanted to make a clean breast of it. The other option, to say nothing, was regarded by Downing Street as impractical.

Pressure was growing last night on the new Welsh Secretary, Alun Michael, to declare whether he intends to stand as prospective First Minister of the Welsh Assembly after Mr Davies's resignation.

Donald Fearon, 38, appeared in court on Saturday charged with robbing Mr Davies of his Ford Granada car and its contents. Four people arrested last week in connection with the incident remain on police bail.

Boost for organ swaps

John Hooper in Rome

NOW that French surgeons have transplanted a hand, their Italian counterparts are itching to sow on something that is just as difficult to cope without.

"We are ready. We could even do it tomorrow," said Nicolo Scuderi, lecturer in plastic and reconstructive surgery at Rome's main university, the Sapienza. "All we are waiting for is authorisation from the [health] minister."

He was referring to his plan for the world's first penis transplant. Mr Scuderi said he had put together a team that could carry out the operation at the Umberto I hospital in Rome. And he already had a waiting list of three people, eager to be given a dead man's member.

Candidates would include those who had been amputated by accident or — like Wayne Bobbitt, the American whose wife cut off his penis — by design.

The biggest numbers, though, would be those seeking to change sex — or even re-change sex.

The patients on the waiting list included someone who had started life as a man, had a sex change operation, and then regretted it, Mr Scuderi told the Rome newspaper, Il Messaggero.

"Up to now, we have had to carry out reconstructions of the penis — an extremely difficult operation because we have to take muscles from the leg and reshape them," he added.

Transplants, though, involve huge challenges of their own.

The immune system has to be heavily suppressed, making the patient more prone to disease and raising the ethical question of whether the end product is a healthier or sicker patient.

There is also a possible legal obstacle. A recent law allows Italian doctors to use organs for transplants only if the relatives of the prospective donor have not registered an objection.

"We want to know from the minister if this principle also applies in the case of penis transplants," the surgeon said.

In Catholic Italy, there is a big difference between next-of-kin giving doctors carte blanche to remove a loved one's hand and leaving them free to detach the potential donor's manhood and sow it on to an aspirant transsexual.

Mr Scuderi is undaunted. He is already looking to a future in which the use of a dead person's organ would no longer be necessary because arrangements could be made among the living for "the exchange of sexual organs between those who decide to become women and those who decide to become men".

Soldiers who shot youth stay in army

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

TWO Scots Guards who chased an unarmed Catholic teenager through three streets in north Belfast before shooting him dead were yesterday told they would be allowed to continue their careers in the army. The decision sparked fury among nationalists.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, was among those who called for convicted murderers James Fisher and Mark Wright to be discharged from the army. But she lost a cabinet wrangle with George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, and an army board decided they should be allowed to stay on for "exceptional reasons".

Throughout the Troubles, only four British soliders have been convicted of murder. None has been in jail for more than six years, and each has been been welcomed back into service after release.

The development comes as Private Lee Clegg, whose conviction for the murder of Catholic joyrider Karen Reilly, aged 18, in 1990, was quashed this year, faces a retrial in Belfast on Monday.

Fisher and Wright shot Peter McBride, an 18-year-old father of two, after he had been searched by a routine foot patrol in the New Lodge area of north Belfast in September 1992. They were freed last month two days before the anniversary of the killing.

Jean McBride, aged 47, the victim's mother, was disgusted. There had been indications that the soldiers would be dismissed. She said: "It will let people see exactly what way we are thought of in Northern Ireland."

Mick Conlon, a Sinn Fein councillor in north Belfast, said: "The decision by the British Army shows a blatant disregard for the life of Peter McBride. It legimitises what in effect is a random and brutal killing. He was cruelly gunned down in cold blood."

Paul O'Connor, of the Pat Finucane Centre, a civil rights organisation based in Derry, said: "A young man was searched, found to have nothing on him, and then chased. He was shot dead as he was getting further away, and the message this decision sends to the nationalist community at this time could hardly be any clearer."

Fisher, now aged 30, from Ayr, and Wright, 25, from Arbroath, claimed at their trial at Belfast crown court in 1994 that they believed McBride was carrying a coffee jar bomb, at the time a weapon regularly used against the security forces. They also argued that they feared McBride was an IRA member leading them into a trap.

But Lord Justice Kelly, the trial judge, accepted that McBride, a petty criminal with no links to the IRA, had been searched before he ran off. He was 70 metres away from the soldiers with the gap increasing when they fired five shots at him. They hit him twice. He was found to be unarmed. The only item he was carrying was a T-shirt.

Lord Justice Kelly labelled both men liars, rejecting claims that there were reasonable grounds for believing McBride was carrying a bomb. He also said McBride was posing no immediate threat when murdered.

Campaigners for the soldiers were delighted. They believe that they were guilty only of a tragic error of judgment.

Independent MP Martin Bell said: "I know they both wanted to stay as soldiers and I am very pleased for them."

MP Ken Maginnis, security spokesman for the Ulster Unionists, said it would be ironic if the two soldiers had been dealt with in a more harsh manner than "those who have committed well-planned, pre-meditated murders on behalf of terrorist organisations and are now being released back into society".

Colonel Tim Spicer, now director of Sandline, recently embroiled in controversy over the supply of arms to Sierra Leone, was the men's commanding officer. He said: "It was absolutely disgraceful that they were convicted in the first place."

The Ministry of Defence said the army board, which included Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson, had listened to both the guardsmen and Mr McBride's family before arriving at its decision.

The board took into account the security situation at the time of the shooting. A member of the soldiers' unit had been killed the previous month in a terrorist attack, and there were worries about coffee jar bomb attacks.

It had made allowances for their contrition, their continued loyalty to the army and their unblemished records.

Those taking the decision with Mr Henderson were Chief of the General Staff General Sir Roger Wheeler, Assistant Chief of the General Staff Major General Mike Willcocks, Adjutant General, General Sir Alex Harley and 2nd Permanent Under Secretary Roger Jackling.

Roy Greenslade, G2, page 5



Scots Guards Mark Wright (left) and James Fisher, who shot dead Peter McBride (above right) MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: CHARLES KNIGHT



'It will let people see exactly what we are thought of in Northern Ireland: two men can murder an innocent young man and walk free'
Peter McBride's mother, Jean

'These two did what they believed was right and were totally innocent of the charges. It was absolutely disgraceful that they were convicted in the first place'
Col Tim Spicer, ex-commanding officer

400 killed, four convicted

Security forces have killed 400 people during 30 years of the Troubles. Nineteen British soldiers have been charged with murder. Manslaughter is not an available option. Four convicted; none spent more than six years in prison.

□ Private Ian Thain, then 18, from Doncaster, shot unarmed Catholic Thomas Reilly, 22, road manager for the pop group Bananarama, through the heart in 1984. Thain claimed he acted in self-defence. He was the first soldier convicted of murder, served three years, and allowed back into his regiment. He left the Army a year later.

□ Private Lee Clegg, then 20, was convicted in 1993 for the murder three years earlier of Karen Reilly, 18, the passenger in a stolen car in west Belfast. He claimed he was acting in defence of his colleagues as driver Martin Peake, 17, drove at them at speed. He was found guilty after forensic tests indicated the crucial shot was fired into the car's rear, after the danger was past. Clegg was freed in 1995, and welcomed back into the Army. He works as a physical education instructor, and was promoted. His conviction was quashed this year. He faces retrial on Monday.

□ Scots Guardsmen James Fisher, now aged 30, from Ayr, and Mark Wright, now 24, from Ayr, were found guilty in 1995 of the murder three years earlier of Peter McBride, 18.

No love lost, but Labour satire is premature

Review

Michael Billington

Ugly Rumours
Tricycle Theatre

THERE is only one thing leftwing dramatists hate more than a Tory government. That, of course, is a Labour government. And Tariq Ali and Howard Brenton have wasted no time in penning a flailing and unfocused satire on the Blair administration for failing to deliver the red-blooded socialism it never actually promised: after only 18 months, their ejaculations seem somewhat premature.

Satire demands moral rage on the part of its practitioners and a visible corruption in its target. Here you feel Ali and Brenton are simply registering their pique at New Labour's failure to live up to their personal dreams. And although they score one or two bull's-eyes — such as Labour's humiliating subservience to Murdoch and to Clinton's foreign policy — for the most part you feel it is still too early to accuse the Government of some kind of grand betrayal.

So what Ali and Brenton use as the spine of their argument is an assumed personal and ideological hostility between Blair and Brown. Tony-Boy, as he is here called, is therefore seen as a smarmy airhead at the mercy of his spin-doctor, Polly Mendacity. Brown, dubbed Gordon Macduff and spun by one Charlie Ferrago, becomes the possible keeper of the flame of old-fashioned socialism who holds secret conclaves with union leaders and Lionel Jospin, but is eventually outflanked and driven into Scottish exile.

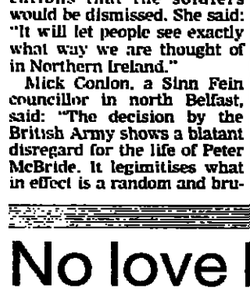
Whatever divisions there may be between Blair and Brown, they hardly warrant the Shakespearean parallels here invoked. And, as if recognising that, Ali and Brenton change tack and accuse Blair of a grand plan to dispense with parliamentary government altogether and govern purely through focus groups and an annual democracy day in the Dome. Given Labour's plans for devolution, elected mayors and Lords reform, it seems a bit rich to accuse them of a dislike of the democratic system.

Occasionally Ali and Brenton's barbs hit home. Blair's long-term plan to merge the TUC and CBI raises a sickly laugh. The vision of Murdoch as a man who simply wants to use Britain as a base to buy Europe, with Labour's connivance, is also horribly plausible. And Blair's telephonic subservience to a trigger-happy Clinton and nervous question of "Do you mind telling me where your targets are?" is too close to truth for comfort.

But much of the writing smacks of wild desperation and has none of the grand grotesquerie of a play such as Brenton and Hare's Pravda. One is left to enjoy such modest pleasures as Sylvia Syms's double impersonation of a batty Thatcher haunting the Downing Street cellars and of a Queen terrified of the idea of renascent Princess Dianas being sighted like so many reborn Elvises.

Neil Mullarkey endows Blair with a cipher-like charm, while Gordon Kennedy plays Brown as a ruggedly tortured soul. Jaye Griffiths and Carla Mendonca also enliven Christopher Morahan and Stephen Rayne's production as a pair of warring spin-doctors. But there is something provisional and premature about this satire: the time to really go for the jugular will be after Labour has grown, if it does, bloated and diseased with power.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.



Ted Hughes: country's loss

Turbulent soul of English poetry laid to rest

continued from page 1

Under the lych gate of St Peter's, up the flint path laid by French prisoners during the Napoleonic wars and under the 13th century cropstone tower, Frieda and Nicholas — Hughes' children by Sylvia Plath — carried the coffin of their father, helped by four other pall-bearers.

The first hymn was O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go, which everyone in this earnest congregation knew referred to the love of God. In the address, the poet's old Cambridge friend the Reverend Terence McCaughey, from Trinity College, Dublin, spoke repeatedly of Hughes's tenderness.

"He was there for us at all kinds of times, some of them dark. In return, his loved ones and friends were drawn into the vortex of suffering, agony and loss into which he was drawn from time to time."

From outside North Tawton, the Faber and Faber chairman Matthew Evans, Dame Diana Rigg and Melvyn Bragg were in the congregation. Afterwards Hughes's body was cremated.

A public memorial service is likely in London. But St Paul's or Westminster Abbey cannot hope to do better, or with more passion, depth and dignity, than St Peter's did yesterday.

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Ex-wife ordered Gucci killing



Patrizia Reggiani in court in Milan yesterday after being sentenced to 29 years in prison for orchestrating the killing of her ex-husband and one-time fashion tycoon, Maurizio Gucci

Rejected spouse's greed and fury led to fashion heir's death, writes **John Hooper** in Rome

THE former wife of the last Gucci to head the fashion firm that bore his globally renowned name was yesterday found guilty of orchestrating his murder and given a 29-year-jail sentence.

Even with good behaviour, it could mean that Patrizia Reggiani, aged 50, a former society beauty, will be a pensioner by the time she emerges from prison.

The woman the Italian press took to calling the "Dark Lady" as the grim details of her case emerged, reacted cryptically to the decision in a Milan court. "Truth is the daughter of time, so I shall take time," one of her lawyers quoted her as saying, when she turned to him after hearing the verdict.

He added that she had said — referring to the judges and jurors — "Evidently, they did not believe me." Prison officers escorted the diminutive convict from the court through a crowd of jostling reporters and photographers.

Reggiani's defence team immediately announced an appeal: "With this sentence we can look ahead," said Giovanni Maria Dedola, noting as significant the fact that the court had not heeded the prosecution's call for a life sentence.

The two judges and six jurors reached their joint decision at the end of a five-month trial over the killing of Gucci, who was 46 when he was shot dead on the stairs to his Milan office in 1995.

The trial hinged on the interaction between the high-life world of the former Mrs Gucci and the low-life world of her fellow conspirators.

These included her confidante, a former boutique owner from Naples, Giuseppina Auriemma, who was given 25 years for helping to orchestrate the killing; the night porter of a down-at-heel Milan hotel, Ivano Savioni, who was given 26 years for assembling the hit squad; and a compulsive gambler, Orazio Cicala, who drove the get-away car, was given 29 years.

"I've reflected a lot over these long months," Savioni told the court. "I know that I face many long years in prison for what I've done. I ask the pardon of Gucci's children and am horrified that things went so much farther than I intended."

The sole life sentence was handed out to the man convicted of actually pulling the trigger, Benedetto Ceraulo. He was the only defendant apart from Reggiani to protest his innocence, as he continued to do yesterday. "I have nothing to do with this murder," he told reporters before being led away.

The evidence against Ceraulo rested largely on hearsay. His alleged partner, Cicala, backed his claims of innocence but refused to put a name to the real murderer, claiming his family could face reprisals if he did. Ceraulo's lawyer said afterwards that the court had "mixed up suspicion and proof".

By contrast, Cicala, who confessed to his role in the crime, said his sentence was "right for what I did". His lawyer said her client had become gravely ill since the start of the trial and that she would ask for him to serve out his sentence under house arrest.

Some hours before the verdict was announced yesterday, Reggiani read a statement to the court protesting her innocence. Her lawyers had maintained she merely fantasised about her husband's death, and that her friend "Pina" Auriemma carried out the killing so as to be able to blackmail her.

"I've been ingenuous to the point of stupidity. I found myself involved despite myself; but an accomplice — never. I firmly deny that," Reggiani said.

She could yet be implicated in further proceedings concerning the death of her adoptive father. Her mother left her natural father for one Fernando Reggiani, a haulage tycoon.

During the trial, the late Mr Reggiani's adopted son alleged to the police that Patrizia and her mother had had his father poisoned. Vincenzo Reggiani said in a statement that after his father became ill with cancer, Patrizia's mother brought in a doctor who gave him an injection.

"A few seconds later he began to gasp. Red spots broke out all over his face, and he died." Then, he said, Patrizia's mother asked the doctor: "All done?"

The trial with its tales of opulence, vindictiveness and astonishing greed has held Italy in its thrall, offering rare glimpses into a world of bizarre values.

Maurizio Gucci — the last grandson of the founder of the dynasty, Guccio Gucci — was for several years head of one of the world's best-known businesses.

Yet he relied heavily on the most primitive of beliefs. A maga — a white witch — testified that she had once been called to his chalet in St Moritz to test for evil. She had lit candles throughout the house. And they had all gone out.

Riches to rags

1972: Maurizio Gucci and Patrizia Reggiani marry despite vigorous opposition from Maurizio's father, Rodolfo. Ms Reggiani later claimed that the early stages of their marriage were blighted by her husband's temporary impotence. But she gave birth to two daughters, Alessandra and Allegra.

1983: Maurizio inherits Rodolfo's controlling stake in the company on the latter's death.

1985: He leaves Patrizia.

1986: His uncle Aldo accuses Maurizio of forging Rodolfo's signature to avoid inheritance taxes. Maurizio flees to Switzerland to avoid jail, leaving Gucci firm in chaos.

1989: Maurizio becomes chairman of Gucci.

1992: Patrizia has surgery to remove a brain tumour.

1992: Maurizio divorces Patrizia, who receives £440,000 a year alimony — a sum she dismisses as "a plate of lentils".

GUCCI

1993: Maurizio Gucci loses control of the business to a consortium of mainly Arab investors.

1995, March 27: Maurizio shot dead on the steps leading to his office in central Milan.

1997, January: Patrizia arrested, accused of masterminding murder.

1997, December: Police raid Patrizia's Milan cell. They find faxes with details of her Monte Carlo bank account at the time of the alleged murder plot containing handwritten notes suggesting large sums had been transferred to her friend, "Pina" Auriemma.

1998, May: Trial begins.

1998, October: The prosecution calls for Patrizia to be given a life sentence.

1998, November 3: Patrizia Reggiani found guilty of planning the murder of Maurizio and sentenced to 29 years in jail.

Research: Laura Milne

He was dead. 'Paradise...'

John Hooper in Rome

THE biggest question left unanswered as the trial of Patrizia Reggiani and her accomplices entered its final weeks was why a woman who had devoted her life to the pursuit of wealth should risk spending the rest of it in the squalor and poverty of a jail.

Her lawyers argued that her judgment had been warped by a brain operation in 1992. But a panel of court-appointed experts offered a different explanation. What they found was a degree of narcissism and arrogance so extreme it almost constituted a personality disorder. But not quite.

"Just because you go around with your nose in the air and are easily offended doesn't mean that you aren't an ordinary member of the public," one of the psychologists told the presiding judge.

From Patrizia Reggiani's point of view, it was arguably the most damaging evidence of all. It suggested that she was capable of putting the avenging of her wounded pride ahead of even the things she appeared to love best.

Once a beauty whose dark good looks elicited comparisons to Elizabeth Taylor, Patrizia Reggiani went after money with single-minded dedication. But she never had the slightest intention of earning any. What she was looking for was a rich husband. She found him at a party in Milan in the shape of Maurizio Gucci.

Maurizio's father, Rodolfo, initially saw La Reggiani as merely a gold-digger. But with the passage of time he seems to have developed a grudging respect for her strength of character. The feckless, spendthrift Maurizio did what they told him.



Maurizio Gucci: weak husband with a strong wife

"Maurizio was like a cushion," Patrizia's mother said recently. "He took the imprint of the last person to sit on him."

But in 1983, his father, Rodolfo, died and Maurizio was left a half-stake in the family fashion business. With wholly unexpected vigour, he seized the chairmanship, and proved himself a match for his legendarily quarrelsome relatives.

The change in Maurizio's personality put an unbearable strain on a marriage founded on the interplay between a weak husband and a strong wife. In 1985, Maurizio walked out for good.

Patrizia Reggiani, who had opted to live the whole of her life through her husband, was left with — as she saw it — almost nothing. Few people would call it that. She had a large apartment in the very best part of Milan. She had alimony of £440,000 a year.

But she wanted more — her husband's chalet in St Moritz, for example, his yacht, the Creole, and his house in New York. "She used to say that he had given them to her as gifts and so they were hers," Piero Parodi, a former legal adviser, testified.

Another lawyer and friend, Franco Geuna, said: "Two things kept Patrizia going: her love of her daughters and her hatred of her husband." They became lethally entwined.

In 1993, Maurizio Gucci lost control of the family firm to the Arab-led consortium that owns it today. As Reggiani saw it, he had squandered the birthright of their two daughters, Alessandra and Allegra.

What is more, he had taken up with another woman and his wife feared that he would leave to his new partner what remained of his fortune.

As her husband's grip on the family business started to weaken, Reggiani began openly asking friends and near-strangers alike how she could get him killed.

Her mother, who came over from Monte Carlo to testify and appeared in court supporting herself with a silver-topped cane, said her daughter made the inquiries as routinely as if she were issuing an invitation to an outing: "It was as if she was saying, 'Let's go and have tea at Sant'Ambroeus [one of Milan's most exclusive cafes]'."

"She asked everyone," said Mr Geuna. "Even superficial acquaintances. We didn't pay it any attention." But someone did.

Giuseppina ("Pina") Auriemma, who first got to know the Guccis when she held the franchise for one of the company's shops in Naples, had become Patrizia Reggiani's closest friend. Yet according to Ms Auriemma, it was not until 1994 that her friend asked her if she could arrange the murder.

"She thought I might know somebody suitable," she said. Ms Auriemma did not. But she knew someone who did — Ivano Savioni, night porter of a one-star Milan hotel and husband of a friend.

For a cut of the £225,000 Reggiani was offering for the killing — he recruited the hit squad: the getaway driver, Orazio Cicala, and a young Sicilian called Benedetto Ceraulo. In his final speech to the court, the prosecutor emphasised the "absurdity" of the motives that drove these two low-life characters to commit this most heinous of crimes: Cicala needed money to pay off gambling debts; Ceraulo wanted a new flat.

But then, what characterised the whole plot from beginning to end was its sheer absurdity: a man died for no other reason than that he had left his wife.

Perhaps because it all seemed so absurd, Maurizio Gucci took no precautions. When he was shot climbing the stairs to his office on March 27, 1995, building's porter who witnessed the murder, said: "I saw Gucci fall to the ground, incredulous — unable to grasp what was happening."

After hearing the news, his ex-wife opened her Cartier diary, turned to that day's date and, switching for some reason into Greek, wrote a single word: "Paradise".

Cruel Britannia



Over 40,000 children run away from home or care each year.

Most are fleeing abuse, violence or bullying.

On the streets they are in danger of getting caught up with drugs, crime or even prostitution.

They are just part of an alarming statistic which shows that we have the worst record in Western Europe for caring for our children. Our future.

Young runaways miss out on education, lack qualifications and can all too easily end up on a downward spiral to a life with no future.

"No one believed me"

Josie (12) - tried to commit suicide, ran away

From the age of 10, Josie was repeatedly sexually assaulted by her stepfather. She overdosed and when the hospital found love-bites on her chest, they called in Social Services who believed the parent's story not Josie's. She was sent back home and the abuse continued. She ran away.

"Children aren't born bad"

Ian Sparks - Chief Executive, The Children's Society

The Children's Society believe that it's the circumstances in which they find themselves and our inability to deal with these, that are bad.

We're an independent charity who are already tackling the root causes of the problems which can cause this downward spiral.

If you believe every child deserves a decent chance in life, you believe in everything we stand for.

While our resources are modest, the impact we make on children's lives is not. As a voluntary society of the Church of England and the Church in Wales, we reach out unconditionally to children when they are at their most vulnerable.

"Something can be done"

We opened the first safe refuge for young runaways like Josie. For children like her, we are someone to turn to, talk to and trust. Our work enables us to understand the causes of the problems children face, so we can develop radical new approaches and influence better solutions, for all children, not just the 40,000 we work with directly every year.

They are just the tip of the iceberg. The reality for many young people in Britain today is that they are living in Cruel Britannia.

Until we, as a nation recognise this, we will never deal with it. The problem isn't someone else's, or the government's, but ours, all of us, and The Children's Society needs your help.

If you would like to know more or make a donation, call our 24 hour donation/information line:

0345 32 10 28

www.the-childrens-society.org.uk

The Children's Society

A Voluntary Society of The Church of England and The Church in Wales
Charity Registration No. 221124

2648/G4

Plane scare tourists to sue over stress

TOURISTS whose plane careered off a runway after brake failure on landing are suing their holiday company over post-traumatic stress in what they claim is the first case of its kind.

More than 20 passengers on the Manchester to Ibiza flight have so far signed up with a lawyer to claim damages from First Choice Holidays. They allege their experience has left them psychologically scarred, with many suffering from flashbacks, nightmares and difficulty sleeping and concentrating.

But the company says it offered adequate counselling and support for those involved both at the time and after their return to the UK.

Their Airbus jet rolled off the Ibiza runway and into thick undergrowth, leaving some passengers with minor injuries, on May 20.

Solicitor John Davis, who is co-ordinating the action, said some passengers were "absolutely panic-stricken" during the landing. They allege cabin crew "abandoned them" immediately afterwards.

When they arrived in the terminal building, it is claimed, they were herded into a small room for several hours with no information or advice and inadequate refreshments.

Counselling offered by the firm was also inadequate to prepare them for their return flights, it is alleged.

Court action would begin soon, he added.

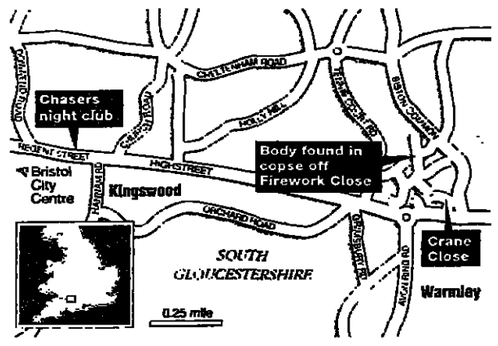
First Choice Holidays said last night that the plane, on which 159 out of the 180 passengers had booked with the Sussex-based travel firm, overshot the runway as a result of a brake failure. It "worked together with the Centre for Crisis Psychology" to offer counselling in the resort and in the UK.





Police officers at the scene in Warmley, Bristol (left), where a woman's body was found yesterday. Police have been searching for Jennifer King, seen (near right) with her friend Clare Clancy on holiday in Cyprus

LEFT PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS ISON



Women's body found in copse

Police make discovery near the home of clubgoer who vanished

Geoffrey Gibbs

POLICE investigating the disappearance of the Bristol receptionist Jennifer King last night discovered the body of a young woman in a copse only a few minutes' walk from her home.

Miss King, 22, went missing in the early hours of Saturday morning after spending the evening with friends at Chasers night club in Kingswood on the outskirts of Bristol.

Her disappearance sparked a widespread police hunt and prompted pleas from her family for information about her whereabouts.

The body was discovered yesterday afternoon as police searched a copse in Warmley, only a few hundred yards from the detatched four bedroom house that Miss King shared with her parents, brother and sister.

The copse is close to a number of houses and adjoins the playing fields of Kingsfield School, which will be closed today as forensic experts and senior detectives continue to examine the scene. A police spokesman said: "We have found a body in suspicious circumstances."

A Home Office pathologist, Hugh White, was last night carrying out a preliminary examination of the body at the scene but there was no immediate information about how she had died. The body is not expected to be formally identified until today.

Miss King's parents, who earlier yesterday repeated their plea for people to come forward with information about their daughter, were immediately informed that a body had been found.

Police family liaison officers were last night continuing to provide them with support.

Miss King, a receptionist with a soft drinks firm, was last seen at 2.15 am on Saturday when she left Chasers alone after a night out with friends. She had been given £5 to pay for a taxi by her brother, Andrew, 25, who by chance was also in the club. It is not known whether she was planning to walk or to take a cab for the one-and-a-quarter-mile journey home.

One line of inquiry being followed by police yesterday was a possible connection with an incident in April where a young mother was robbed of her jewellery after getting into a bogus taxi outside the same club.

Miss King's Friday night had started happily, with a drink with her boyfriend, Steve Daley.

After giving him a lift home she drove back to her home before being picked up by friends and going on to the nightclub while her boyfriend had an evening out with men friends.

The last time she was seen was when a video surveillance camera captured her leaving the club alone, dressed in a black, short-sleeved top, threequarter-length leather jacket and black trousers.

Earlier yesterday her parents, Ray, a distribution manager, and Margaret, both 50, made an appeal from their home for public help in the search for their "caring and homeloving" daughter.

In a televised appeal, he suggested that residents in the Warmley, Kingswood and Greater Bristol area should check their outhouses or garages in the hope of finding a trace of his daughter.

They revealed that Miss King had been given a "rocket" after staying out overnight three years ago without informing them. After that she had never failed to tell them where she was going.

They said she doted on her younger sister, Sarah, 11, and was to have taken her to Euro Disney near Paris tomorrow. Her disappearance was "totally out of character."

Live bullets mixed with blanks killed soldier, 22

Stuart Millar

A SOLDIER was accidentally shot dead on a nighttime training exercise when live bullets were wrongly mixed with blank ammunition, an inquest in Brecon was told yesterday.

Richard King, aged 22, a Grenadier Guardsman, was hit by a single round from an assault rifle during a four-day operation at Sennybridge, Powys, in February.

The inquest was told how strict army procedures were designed to prevent live and blank ammunition ever coming into contact.

Soldiers issued with live rounds had to hand back any unused bullets after each exercise and make a declaration that they had none left. Rifles were also fitted with a blank firing attachment to stop a live round.

But on the night of the final battle of the training exercise, the safeguards appear to have failed, the inquest heard.

Although only blank ammunition was supposed to have been issued, Lance Corporal James Falkener, the section leader in the attack on the trench manned by Guardsman King, unwittingly fired five live rounds. One round shattered the blank firing attachment and another hit the guardsman on the right side.

"I had no live ammunition on me, we were supplied with blanks," Lance Corporal Falkener told the inquest.

"I was aiming in the direction of the trench and I could make out figures in front of me. I didn't know that the blank firing attachment had come off. It had never happened before."

Lieutenant Colonel John Adams, of the Army Training Accident Investigation Team, said: "I believe that live ammunition was somehow contaminated with the blank ammunition and then fired."

Guardsman King, from the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, died in a military ambulance on the way to hospital. Simon James, a Home Office pathologist, said the cause of death was a high velocity rifle round to the chest, which shattered his spine and fragmented, causing extensive internal injuries.

After the tragedy every unit in the army was reminded of the safety procedures concerning live and blank ammunition, the inquest was told. The blank firing attachment on rifles has since been adapted so the rifle cannot be loaded with a live rounds when firing blanks.

'I didn't know that the blank firing attachment had come off'

Colour Sergeant Ewen Flemming, of the 2nd Parachute Regiment, who was instructing the soldiers, told the inquest he was confident that they had each been given only 90 blank rounds.

"The last time live ammunition was used was two days earlier. It appears live ammunition was retained by at least one soldier. There is no way the two sorts of ammunition meet."

Recording a verdict of accidental death, the Powys coroner, John Hollis, said: "As the relatives of Guardsman King have said, it is remarkable that all the safety procedures were carried out in relation to live and blank ammunition but he still died.

"There are a number of issues to be addressed by the army and new safety devices are already in operation. These things need to be carefully looked at to prevent a similar tragedy."

Dealer says he was not told of arms ban

Richard Norton-Taylor

TWO key figures at the heart of the arms to Africa affair insisted yesterday that the Foreign Office knew about a plan by a private British security company to supply weapons to Sierra Leone, and said that they were never warned it was in breach of a British or United Nations embargo.

Peter Penfold, Britain's high commissioner to Sierra Leone, and Tim Spicer, the director of Sandline International, challenged Whitehall's version of the controversy surrounding the counter-coup that restored President Kabbah to power.

In his first public comment on the affair, Mr Penfold — singled out for blame by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary — told the Commons foreign affairs committee that the FO never told him about a British executive order imposing an arms ban on all sides in the Sierra Leone conflict.

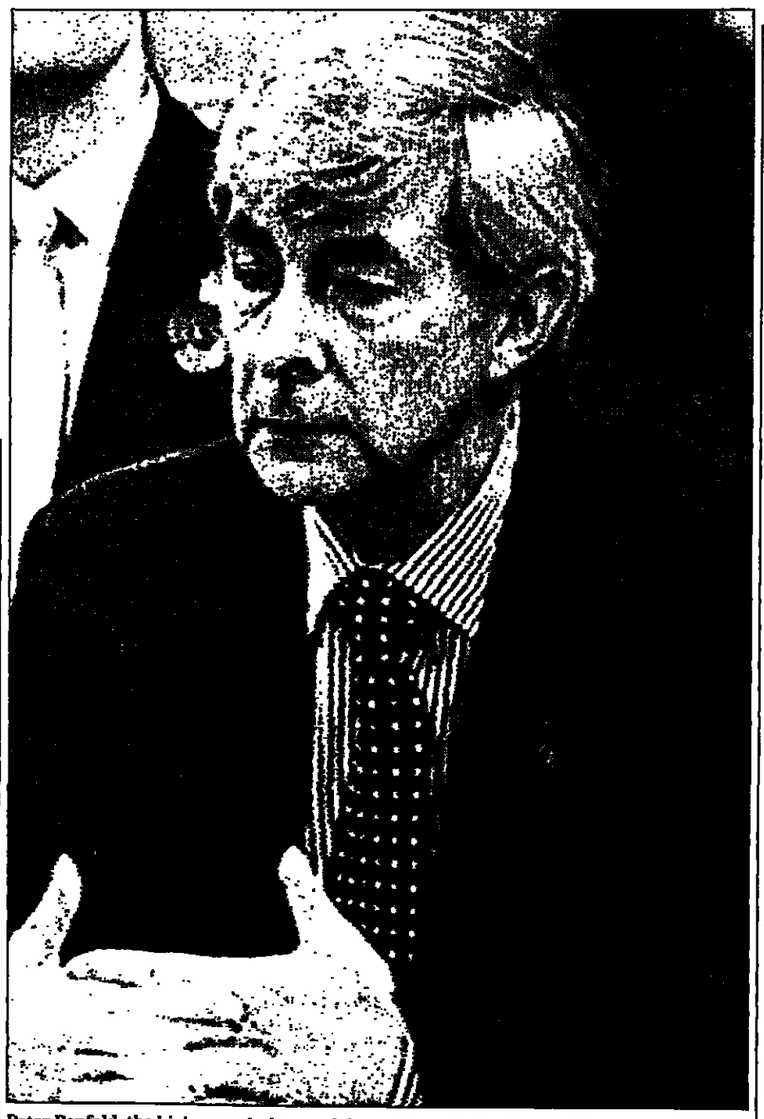
He had always been led to believe that the UN embargo applied only to the junta which seized power last year.

"The first I saw was a press line of the Foreign Office on the UN resolution which made it clear the sanctions were against the junta," he said. Other FO documents referred only to the junta. He had never received FO legal or policy advice suggesting anything else.

"I had no doubt at all that everything I did was being done properly, in fulfilment of legal requirements and in fulfilment of British government policy."

He said he had always assumed the Sandline deal, worth £6.2 million, included the supply of arms, given the amount of money involved. He had assumed FO officials would have come to a similar conclusion.

He never received any warning that Sandline's activities were against sanctions: "So I continued firmly to believe that what was being contemplated was not against sanctions," Mr Penfold said.



Peter Penfold, the high commissioner, giving evidence in the House of Commons yesterday

He added that he never led Sandline to understand they were being given authority through him for what they were doing.

Lt Col Spicer said Craig Murray, deputy head of the FO's west Africa branch, was "absolutely aware" of the plan to supply arms to help restore Mr Kabbah to power. They even expressed concern about questions being raised in the Commons.

In a claim which, if proved, will be also be highly damaging to the FO, Lt Col Spicer described a meeting with officials about how to obtain night-vision goggles in a way that would short-circuit British export controls.

The idea was to claim the equipment was for a mining company.

The Sandline director also said he supplied Whitehall with military intelligence. It is known that defence intelligence staff were aware of the company's activities. The foreign intelligence service, MI6, has strongly denied any knowledge of them.

Lt Col Spicer said he was convinced the plan to supply arms was "absolutely right and absolutely legal".

He added: "I am clear that the Foreign Office officials understood very clearly that the procurement of arms and ammunition were involved in this operation. At no stage was I discouraged from it by anybody."

During two hours of testimony, Lt Col Spicer persistently refused to describe Sandline's ownership or financial details. The company is registered in the Bahamas.

Mr Penfold developed a close relationship with Mr Kabbah when they were in exile in Conakry, capital of neighbouring Guinea. There, and then later in London, he met Sandline executives, including Lt Col Spicer. Despite official denials, both men insist they kept the FO informed about the company's deal with Mr Kabbah.

Mr Cook told MPs earlier this year that ministers were never told about the deal. A Customs and Excise investigation concluded that it would be unfair to prosecute Sandline.

An internal inquiry by Sir Thomas Legg, former permanent secretary at the Lord Chancellor's department, concluded that "official misjudgment and systemic cultural failures" were to blame.

Blacklist plan to combat surge in 'air rage morons'

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

A NATIONWIDE blacklist to combat disruptive and violent behaviour by air travellers was approved yesterday by the industry, following the recent attack on stewardess Fiona Weir.

The move came as the man accused of attacking her, Stephen Handy, was banned from travelling on all UK airlines, and the cross-Channel ferry company Hoverspeed. Handy has been bailed by a Spanish court over the incident on a flight between Gatwick and Malaga.

Airtours, the company which employs Ms Weir, said it had advised rail companies of its decision, and was awaiting a response. A rail ban would be far more difficult to enforce.

The decision to draw up an "air rage" blacklist was taken by a conference of the UK Flight Safety Committee at Heathrow. Committee chairman Steve Kerr, an Airtours pilot, said there had been a fourfold increase in incidents in the past four years.

He said the laws "which we have to deal with are limited because they were written to deal with terrorism and hijacking, not the moron who decides to smash a bottle over an unsuspecting lady's head."

A spot check by the committee found that 10 UK airlines experienced 186 incidents during one month last year, ranging from passengers too drunk to board and smoking in prohibited areas, to aggravation and assault.

How the blacklist will work is not yet clear, but as many airlines operate within a wide variety of jurisdictions co-ordinating it internationally presents huge problems. The International Air Transport Association, representing more than 250 of the world's leading airlines, confirmed that it too was drawing up an international register of "violent and unruly passengers", but had no timescale for its introduction.

Dave Parsons, flight operations director of Airtours, said Mr Handy had purchased a ticket for £39 to go to Malaga, and that the cheapness of air travel had opened it up to people with no previous access. Conference delegates agreed that far more people were travelling by air and there was far less tolerance.

Iain Jack, head of security for British Airways, said that it had written to staff two years ago telling them they would be supported if they were involved in the prosecution of an offender. Restraint equipment was changed, with steel handcuffs replacing plastic ones, which some passengers could break.

He said BA had introduced a "yellow card" warning which was issued to badly behaved passengers. He described it as the last stage in a preventative process which should begin when a passenger booked a ticket, through the journey to the airport, and the process from check-in to boarding.

BA is carrying out a study into the causes of stress leading to disruptive behaviour, Mr Jack said. He called for an international initiative to extend national jurisdiction to crimes committed on board inbound foreign registered aircraft, and for penalties to be increased to give police extra powers of arrest.

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, agreed that many attacks on aircraft were alcohol related, and that staff had instructions not to serve alcohol to passengers who were suspected of having drunk too much. But in some cases passengers came on board having already consumed too much.



Fiona Weir: Air and ferry ban on her alleged attacker

High jinx

☐ February '98: Former Stone Roses frontman Ian Brown threatens to chop off an air stewardess's hands and abuses the captain on a BA flight from Paris. (Sentenced last month to four months' jail.)

☐ June '98: A drunk passenger, Elizabeth Elliot, from London, headbutts and bites BA crew during a flight from New York, forcing an emergency landing at Heathrow. (Jailed for 15 months in September.)

☐ July '98: A holiday jet from Manchester to Dalaman in Turkey is forced to land in Romania when a drunk couple cause havoc and upset the 235 passengers and 10 crew. They are arrested by Romanian police and flown back to London. (The airline is considering taking action.)

☐ October '98: Stephen Handy, aged 37, is alleged to have attacked a stewardess with a broken vodka bottle. The victim, Fiona Weir, aged 31, needs 18 stitches after being struck over the head during a flight from Gatwick to Malaga. Handy is alleged to have caused constant trouble during the flight. He is released on bail and is due to report to a Malaga court.

Girl born in prison last night to be taken from her mother

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

A HOLLOWAY prisoner who last night gave birth to a girl faces having the baby taken away from her after a High Court ruling yesterday.

Mr Justice Laws confirmed a Prison Service decision that the former psychology student, aged 24, be banned from Holloway's mother and baby unit. At the time he gave his ruling he was told the baby was "literally on its way" to being born, but the judge said Michael Sheldrick, Holloway's governor, had not acted unreasonably or perversely when he confirmed the decision of an admissions board to deny the mother a place in the unit.

The baby will be placed with social services and will probably be cared for by foster parents. Lawyers for the woman, who has not been named for legal reasons, told the judge she had been denied a fair opportunity to deny allegations that she had been involved in violent incidents with another inmate, fighting and bullying, and was unfit to be allowed into the unit.

Last night Frances Crook, director of the Howard League for Penal Reform, condemned the practice of separating babies from mothers considered unsuitable for the unit.

She said the woman, who had said she wanted to breast feed the child, would be distraught when told the legal challenge had failed and her baby, which has a chromosomal abnormality, was taken away. "I am disappointed because the substantial issues about the welfare of the child and the wellbeing of the mother were simply not dealt with in court," Ms Crook said.

"Surely it is possible for the prison authorities to make some arrangement, taking into account public safety, where mother and baby can remain secure and together. If you separate baby from mother, we all know this can create long-term damage. Here you will have one damaged baby. Everybody loses."

The woman is serving five years for wounding with intent. She is said to have been insolent to prison officers. There were also complaints of rudeness, bullying and not getting up in the mornings.

Mr Justice Laws also refused the woman permission to take her challenge to the Court of Appeal, although her lawyers were last night trying an independent approach.



Sensational . . . despite ideas that trains damaged the spine, the 19th century was not short of intrepid citizens for the delights of travel at 50 mph ILLUSTRATION: MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY

Steam age stress jolted Victorians

Martin Wainwright reports on a forerunner of modern ailments

THE supposedly modern nature of stress-related medical conditions is about to be debunked by an academic study of railway spine, a nervous condition that swept Victorian Britain.

Promoted by leading doctors, and even, ironically, Sigmund Freud, who seized on the "erotic jolting and exquisite sexual symbolism" of train travel, the illness led to some large compensation claims and, reportedly, turned thousands of people into invalids. "It was symptomatic of a society and culture suddenly speeding up, as ours is today," said Ralph Harrington, who has just finished a study of the condition at York university's Institute of Railway Studies. "The railways marked a leap in speed which had never really been paralleled. Here were people who had mostly experienced nothing faster than running being carried at 50 mph and, by 1854, over 80 mph."

Disbelief that such an experience could possibly be good for you — a worry that began in the 1840s — was encouraged by official caution, including a written instruction from Queen Victoria's staff to railway companies that "Her Majesty travels at a speed of 20 mph". A visiting shah of Persia insisted on an even lower speed all the way from Portsmouth to Waterloo because his doctors feared that he would otherwise suffocate.

"It seems clear that most sufferers were really affected by nervous anxiety," said Mr Harrington, "but, then as now, there was a determination to find an organic, physical cause, rather than allowing the condition to be described as just 'all in the mind'. Doctors concentrated on the spine and the effect of jolting travel and speed on the delicate nerves in the spinal column."

The movement was blamed for a string of symptoms described in compensation cases, many involving a leading London surgeon, John Erichson, as expert witness.

He attributed migraine, back pain, stiffness, personality disorders, sleeplessness and partial paralysis to "chronic and subacute inflammation action in the spinal membrane" caused by travel by rail.

The theory was enhanced by the "erotic rail" arguments of Freud and several forerunners, who ascribed boys' frequent wish to be engine drivers to the fascination of having the body and libido shaken by bumpy trains. Although Freud referred to the "pleasurable character of the sensations of movement", he acknowledged that the jolting might also have a damaging physical effect.

Mr Harrington reveals the retaliation of the railway companies, with company surgeons like Herbert Page insisting that railway spine was a nervous condition. Recognising its genuine symptoms, he denied physical damage and instead attributed the problem to "profound exhaustion of the nervous system, or traumatic neurasthenia".

The success of train travel, in spite of railway spine, might reflect the fact that victims were a minority. There was certainly much enthusiasm for high speed. Sydney Smith, the Anglican essayist, was overjoyed to overtake an eagle, and the poet Edna St Vincent Millay wrote:

My heart is warm with the friends I make
And better friends I'll not be knowing
There isn't a train I wouldn't take
No matter where it's going.



'A magical enchantment. I bless the South Eastern Railway Company for realising the Arabian Nights in the prose days'

Charles Dickens (left) after an 11-hour London–Paris rail journey, 1851



'I was dreadfully frightened before the train started; in the nervous state I was in, it seemed to me certain that I should faint, from the impossibility of getting the horrid thing stopt'

Thomas Carlyle (left) after a 75-minute Manchester–Liverpool run, 1842

New inquiry into racist killing of musician

Amelia Gentleman

A NEW investigation is to be launched into the suspected racist murder of a black musician who was found burning in a London street, police announced yesterday.

The announcement came as the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, took the unusual step of meeting the dead man's family to listen to their concerns about the way police handled the original investigation into his death.

Michael Menson, 30, died of multiple organ failure caused by his burns, 16 days after the attack in Edmonton, north London, in February last year. Despite his repeated claims that he had been attacked, police assumed that he had set fire to himself in a suicide attempt and failed to investigate.

Scotland Yard later admitted in a letter to the Menson family that senior officers had made serious mistakes, and earlier this year an inquest jury found that he had been unlawfully killed.

The family believe that police racism was behind the failure of the initial investigation.

A team from the Race and Violent Crime Unit at the Metropolitan Police — set up in July in response to controversy on police handling of Stephen Lawrence's murder — will undertake the reinvestigation into Mr Menson's death.

The family's lawyer, Michael Schwarz, told a press conference that Mr Straw "appeared visibly moved" during the 50-minute meeting.

However, the Home Secretary told the family, who had been pressing for a public inquiry along the lines of the Lawrence inquiry, that he was unable to intervene directly in an individual case and could only establish a public inquiry if the competence of an entire police force had been called into question.

Instead, Mr Straw expressed concern about the situation, agreed to meet the family again if and when it was deemed necessary, and promised to pass on their concerns to the Metropolitan police commissioner, Sir Paul Condon. "What the family has asked for is openness throughout the investigation," Mr Schwarz said.

"They want proper resources allocated to it, and also want it to be supervised at the most senior level, so that it is done as competently and thoroughly as possible."

He stressed that the Home Secretary's decision to meet the Menson family reflected the seriousness with which he viewed their case.

"What we have today is the Home Secretary breathing down the necks of the new task force and the Police Complaints Authority to ensure that there is a proper investigation of Michael's death — something that has been wholly lacking so far."

Five of Mr Menson's 10 brothers and sisters, the children of a former Ghanaian envoy to Britain, were present at the meeting, as was a representative from the Ghanaian High Commission.

They told Mr Straw of their frustration that three of the four officers involved in the original inquiry had retired, and thus were immune from disciplinary action.

"The Home Secretary confirmed that the Government has under way proposals which will meet these concerns," Mr Schwarz said.

Mr Straw would not be drawn on the question of whether racism within the police had been responsible for mistakes made during the first investigation, commenting that this was a matter for the Metropolitan police commissioner.

But Michael Menson's sister, Alex, said yesterday: "Did the police fail to take this case seriously because they were incompetent and idle? Or was it that the victim was a young black man, and they did not take the time or trouble to find out what happened to him?"

The PCA has already launched an inquiry into the Metropolitan police's investigation, but this may have to be postponed in order that the reinvestigation into his death can go ahead.

The Menson family will later this week meet John Grieve, who heads the Race and Violent Crime Unit, to discuss how this can be achieved.

Surgeons told operations are not always in patients' interest

Sarah Boseley
Health Correspondent

SOME of the 20,000 hospital patients who died last year during or shortly after surgery should never have gone under the knife, according to a report published yesterday.

Surgeons should remember that it was sometimes in the best interests of their patients not to operate, said the National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths, set up by government nine years ago to investigate on an annual basis.

Within the 2,500 deaths that NCEPOD selected to examine, in confidence, in the year 1996/97, there were cases in which "the care given was not always in the best interests of the patient and a more holistic approach should have been given," said Ron Hoile, the principal co-ordinator in surgery.

But he emphasised that surgeons had difficult decisions to make where a patient was frail or their condition was severe — probably because of cancer — and yet they and their relatives wanted surgery. "There are expectations that we can work miracles."

There were some cases in which anaesthetists felt under pressure from the surgeon even thought they had doubts about the patient's fitness. "By nature most surgeons are optimistic," said Stuart Ingram, NCEPOD's principal co-ordinator in anaesthesia.

"Their expectations for the patient can be to a degree unrealistic. It often seems to us as anaesthetists that the decision to operate is the easier one to take. You can be criticised for doing something, but not for having done nothing."

But it was a "very, very difficult problem" and a greater degree of realism was needed in deciding what could be achieved for a patient.

About a third of those who died were over 80, although it was not age but degree of fitness that counted in suitability for an operation.

There were concerns expressed by surgeons that some patients, particularly with severe coronary heart disease, were being admitted to hospital on the day their operation was to take place, because a bed could not be made available for them during the previous night.

The stress of arriving early in the morning to face an operation could worsen their condition. "It is fundamentally wrong in terms of quality care and risk management," said John Williams, vice president of the Royal College of Surgeons.

"I don't think a person should go to theatre unless they have a bed, ideally in the right ward. But the number of times we are up against it is increasing." Anaesthetists were having to examine patients in the day room prior to surgery or even on the way to theatre. It was hard to tell the patient, and the surgeon, at that stage that they were unfit for a general anaesthetic.

The report expressed particular concern about oesophageal surgery — often the removal of the oesophagus or gullet because of cancer. "In the UK at the moment oesophagal surgery is practised in a fairly haphazard manner," said Mr Hoile. "Our mortality rates are higher than Europe or elsewhere. Our figures are something like double."

Kathy Sherry, the inquiry's clinical co-ordinator in anaesthesia, said about 10 per cent of those who had their gullets removed died, but it was team work, not surgery, that was to blame. "It is the post-operative complications — mainly chest infections or infection elsewhere leading to sepsis."

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Anne Perkins on the end of the Tory wife

G2 page 4

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Saudi king rebuffs US as Iraq crisis heightens

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

SAUDI ARABIA will not serve as a springboard for attacks on Iraq, the United States was told last night as it sought backing in the latest confrontation over United Nations weapons inspections.

King Fahd told William Cohen, the US defence secretary, that his country could not directly support military action, highlighting the complexities of handling what is shaping up to be a rerun of a similar but inconclusive crisis earlier this year.

As a defiant Saddam Hussein again insisted he would not resume co-operation with the UN unless sanctions were lifted, Britain and the US signalled that diplomatic options would be explored before military ones.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, told the Commons: "We want to find a diplomatic solution but we have always made clear that all options remain open." And he reminded Parliament that Britain had 12 Tornado warplanes based in the Gulf, and was ready to use them.

The US aircraft carrier Eisenhower and several warships capable of firing long-range Tomahawk cruise missiles are in the area.

> 'Saddam appears to be gambling that the world will grow weary of his constant evasion'

"Saddam Hussein appears to be gambling that the world will grow weary of his constant evasion and his repeated confrontation," Mr Cook told MPs. "His calculation is that we will eventually give up and abandon the sanctions regime without requiring him to abandon his ambitions for regional supremacy through weapons of terror. We must remain ready and resolute to prove him wrong."

Earlier, George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said after talks with Mr Cohen, on route to the Saudi capital Riyadh, that "full compliance with the UN is the only way open to Iraq to achieve the lifting of sanctions".

Baghdad announced on Saturday that it was suspending all co-operation with the United Nations Special Commission, Unscom, whose inspectors must certify that Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and the missiles to deliver them have been scrapped before sanctions can be lifted.

Yet for all the tough talk, diplomats at the UN said last night they were working on a new Security Council resolution that would not explicitly threaten force — apparently because of opposition from Russia, France and China.

All three countries have expressed alarm at the latest move by President Saddam but want swift moves to end sanctions. They are just as unlikely to back UN-authorised military action as they were in February.

France said yesterday it was recalling its representative in Baghdad for consultations and warned Iraq that ending co-operation with Unscom would lead to total isolation. Russia reiterated its opposition to the use of force.

"It's here we go again," said one European official. "But the Iraqis may have shot themselves in the foot. The French and the Russians went out on a limb to get a favourable reference to lifting sanctions. So all this may have helped unify the council. But for what? Not for military action. There's not a hope in hell for action authorised by the council."

Making exactly such a calculation, Iraq remained obdurate. "We will not back down on the decision whatever the sacrifices would be," the official al-Iraq newspaper said in a front-page editorial as hundreds of people marched through Baghdad carrying coffins of children they said had died due to the sanctions.

Diplomats at the UN said a new resolution might be adopted tomorrow.

Underlining the seriousness of the crisis, the Unscom chief, Richard Butler, said he could no longer provide any assurances about whether Iraq was engaging in clandestine rearmament.

He said he was keeping more than 100 inspectors and support staff in Iraq in a decision aides described as intended to avoid escalation. But he warned he would have to reconsider if "Iraq does not rescind its decisions in the near future".

February's crisis was resolved at the eleventh hour by the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, but Unscom feels its work has been weakened, and officials say they fear more pressure to abandon their disarmament quest.

Mr Cohen, after seeing Saudi leaders last night, today goes to Kuwait, Iraq's victim in 1990 and now the only Arab country to actively back the military option.

In Washington, a defence department spokesman said that the warships and aircraft now in the Gulf were sufficient for any military action against Iraq. No movement of extra troops, ships or weapons was under way. The US has 20,000 men in the region and can double their numbers within 96 hours.



Residents evacuate the town of Las Mesitas in El Salvador. Regional governments are relying on helicopters to rescue the thousands still stranded by floods PHOTOGRAPH: RAUL GAVIDIA

Central America counts cost as floods recede

Phil Gunson, Latin America Correspondent

AS FLOOD waters begin to recede, the people of Central America are counting the cost of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Mitch, which may have killed between 7,000 and 10,000 people and left more than 3 million homeless — some 10 per cent of the region's population.

Hundreds of bodies remain buried in mud or floating in swollen rivers. A week after the storm hit Honduras, many people in isolated areas are still clinging to trees and rooftops.

Saying his country was "wounded, though not dying", the Honduran President, Carlos Flores, suspended constitutional guarantees for a fortnight and declared a dusk-to-dawn curfew to put a stop to the looting that has hit the country's two main cities, Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. Those violating the curfew will be placed in internment camps.

With food, water and petrol in short supply, restrictions were placed on the sale of fuel.

Hardly a town or a village in the country was not hit by floods and landslides, the president said, and some had "disappeared completely".

Along with the governments of neighbouring Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala, Honduras is begging for international assistance, and aid is beginning to arrive by air and sea.

The United States has promised $3.5 million (£2 million) and is setting up an emergency co-ordination centre in Costa Rica. It has also sent helicopters, as has Mexico. Other countries providing aid include Switzerland, Taiwan, Spain and Japan. In Britain, the organisation Jubilee 2000 has called for the countries' foreign debts to be cancelled. Honduras, Jubilee says, spends 80 per cent of its revenue on debt repayment.

"Alone, we cannot reconstruct the country," said Dimas Alonso, director of the Honduran disasters and emergencies organisation, Copeco.

The sentiment was echoed by Nicaragua's defence minister, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

"We have recovered from war, we have recovered from the [1972] earthquake, we will recover again," Mr Chamorro said. "But we will need international support to recover as quickly as possible."

But the rightwing government of Arnoldo Aleman in Nicaragua, which has come in for severe criticism for its handling of the disaster, refused an offer of doctors from Cuba. Vice-President Enrique Bolanos said: "If we fill our hotels with doctors who will be pressing for helicopters to get to the scene, it will only cause more chaos."

The former president, Daniel Ortega, of the Sandinistas described the decision as extraordinary, saying "nothing like this happened even in the time of the Somoza dictatorship".

With 163 bridges destroyed and many parts of the country cut off by road, the government is being forced to spend scarce hard currency on fuel for its fleet of ageing Soviet-built helicopters to deliver aid and evacuate the injured and homeless.

A region dependent on agriculture for its export earnings has seen this year's crops virtually wiped out. In Nicaragua, estimates put crop losses at $43 million, with 80 per cent of the harvest destroyed.

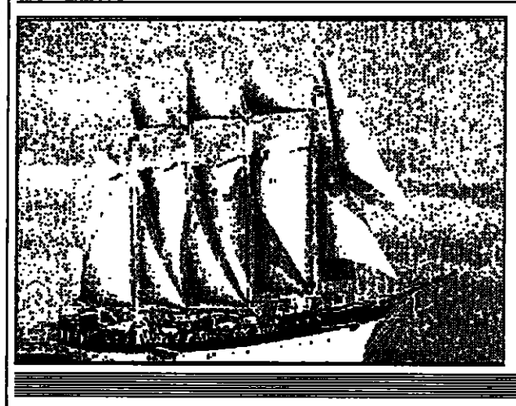
In Honduras, losses in the banana plantations alone may top $850 million. Eighty per cent of the country's road network is reported to have been affected, and at least 100 bridges are damaged.

With some cases of cholera already reported, fear of epidemics is growing. At the scene of the worst single tragedy, the volcano mudslide in the north-west Nicaraguan province of Chinandega, rescue workers have begun the grim task of incinerating the hundreds of bodies scattered across 30 square miles of mud, to prevent the spread of disease.

Also near Nicaragua's border with Honduras, the mayor of the town of Yalaquina said 4,000 people were completely without food or drinking water. It was a scene repeated across the region: supplies cannot get through because of the damage to roads and bridges, and drinking water has been contaminated with mud or sewage.

Although the official death toll across the region remained at around 2,000 yesterday, it was widely acknowledged that this figure was a serious underestimate. In addition to the hundreds of bodies buried under the volcanic mud in Chinandega, some 3,000 people were still missing.

"Anything I could say to describe this would be inadequate," said one inhabitant of Tegucigalpa. "We have never seen anything like it."



Holiday schooner hit by hurricane is feared lost

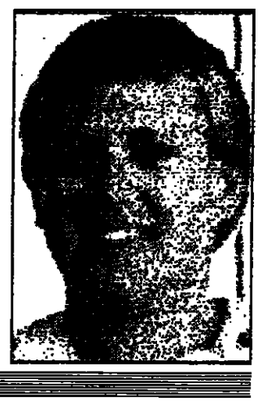
RAFTS and life-jackets from the SV Fantome, the world's largest four-masted schooner which went missing with 31 crew as Hurricane Mitch tore across the Caribbean, have been recovered by the US Coast Guard, *writes Owen Bowcott.*

The 282ft holiday vessel (left) had put ashore all 100 passengers before the crew sailed toward Honduras' Roatan Islands in an effort to avoid the storm and its 150mph winds.

The last radio message from the Fantome — flagship of Windjammer Barefoot Cruises — said it was rolling through 40 degrees. It was under the command of Cornish-born Captain Guyan March (right). Almost all of his crew are from the Caribbean or Central America.

The serial number on one of the two rafts pulled from the sea confirmed that it belonged to the Fantome. "We have found all sorts of stuff," said Scott Carr, a coast guard spokesman. It's starting to look as if the ship went down. This doesn't dismiss the possibility that survivors could be out in the open sea on a life raft."

Capt March was described as an experienced British sailor. "He has been sailing since he was a kid. He is a fantastic sailor," said Laura Marshall, an Atlanta resident who often travelled on Windjammer Cruises. "He knew what he was doing."



US 'propaganda' radio broadcasts infuriate Iran

Radio Free Europe's eastern expansion is raising hackles in Tehran, reports **Geneive Abdo**

THE voice on the short wave radio recalls the cold war, when transmitters of East and West assaulted the world with competing visions of an idyllic future. Only this time the target is not a rival superpower, but a country already reaching out for a tentative rapprochement.

"Welcome to the Farsi Service of Radio Free Europe," says the newsreader, kicking off a one-hour programme from a former parliament building in Prague, broadcasting into the airwaves of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

So begins the latest United States attempt to mould the behaviour of a country and a value system it rejects as incompatible with its own. Launched at the weekend and fully funded by the US Congress, the service offers the official American spin on everything from President Mohammed Khatami's reform campaigns to human rights issues in Iran and the latest Palestinian-Israeli peace deal.

In this age of Mr Khatami's "dialogue between civilisations" — a radical departure from a once-aggressive foreign policy — Iranians are wondering what has hit them. "The programme tries to project a neutral stand. But I don't believe it. It's organised by the CIA," says Roubzbeh Bolhari, a Tehran journalist.

Government officials say they view it as a interference in the Islamic Republic's internal affairs. Tehran has recalled its ambassador from Prague in protest at the Czech government's decision to allow Radio Free Europe to be stationed there, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported yesterday.

On Saturday the envoy, Seyyed Jafar Hashemi, said the programme was an "act of aggression" against Iran.

The Farsi Service, a throwback to four decades of clandestine US broadcasts into Eastern Europe to undermine communism, touches upon the most sensitive subjects and personalities.

Sunday night's news bulletin carried a summary of a speech by one of Iran's leading dissident intellectuals, Abdel Karim Seroush, who criticised restrictions on freedom of expression while at a conference in London.

In another interview, a human rights activist in the West criticised the imprisonment of a mid-ranking Iranian cleric. Mohsen Saeed Zadeh was jailed after he remarked that Iran had failed to promote women's rights, a slap to an ambitious state campaign which claims the 1979 Islamic Revolution liberated women.

> 'The Farsi Service tries to project a neutral stand. But I don't believe it. It's run by the CIA'

As the first broadcasts went out, Iranians were turning to a different page in their relations with the US. This week marks the 19th anniversary of the takeover of the American embassy in Tehran, an event that has usually been celebrated with street rallies, the burning of the US flag, and chants of "Death to America".

But on Monday about 2,500 students belonging to the same organisation that seized the embassy in 1979, the Unity Consolidation Office, offered conciliatory words to the country they once referred to as "the Great Satan".

Marching from Tehran University to the former mission, they refrained from burning the US flag for the first time in 19 years — a gesture of support, they said, for Mr Khatami's overtures to the American people.

"Not only do we not harbour any ill wishes for the American people, but in fact we consider them to be a great nation," read one banner.

Another placard went a step further, offering an apology for the embassy takeover. "In the heat of revolutionary fervour, things happen which cannot be fully contained," it said.

While Iran's younger generation looks to the future, conservatives in the US Congress appear to be retreating to the past. It is the rightwing politicians behind US trade sanctions against Iran who are sponsoring the Farsi Service.

But since the broadcasts began, the programme's director has made repeated attempts to convince the audience it is not aimed at spreading anti-Iranian propaganda.

"We are journalists and we do not work for the United States government," the director said in an interview broadcast on Sunday. "We are unbiased and do not support any faction.

"It's not our job to interfere in the internal affairs in Iran."

Turkish comedian in hunger strike against state censors

Chris Morris in Ankara

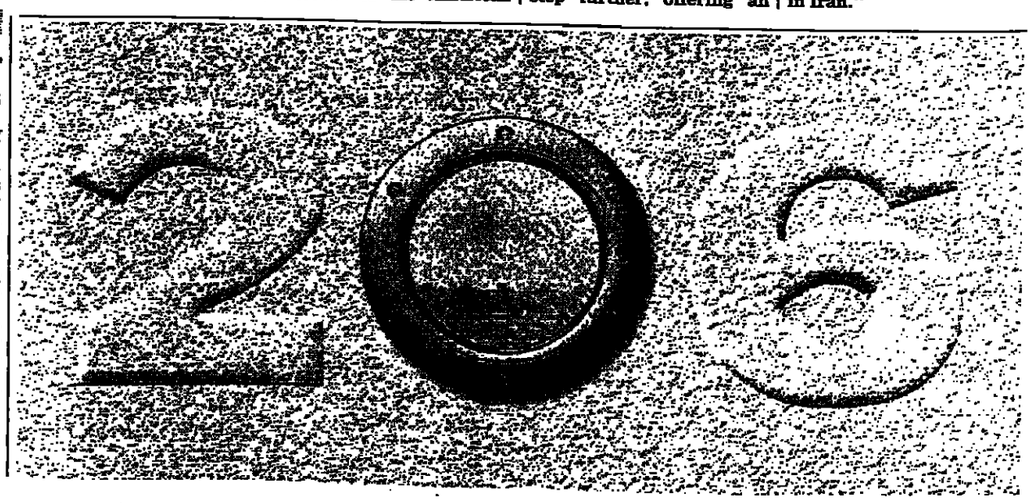
ONE of Turkey's top comedians went on a hunger strike yesterday, vowing to die unless censorship laws are changed.

Levent Kirca is protesting against the state broadcasting commission's decision to shut down Channel D television for 24 hours because he made fun of a government minister who recently admitted that she is still a virgin.

Mr Kirca is staging his strike at his theatre in Istanbul. He says that he will go on performing, even though he will drink only one glass of sugary water every day.

Fellow comedians have cancelled their television shows in support, and on Monday they marched on parliament. Mr Kirka said yesterday: "The Turkish people are with me. As I'm not a politician, they actually believe what I am saying."

This may not be the best issue on which to rally widespread support against censorship. Womens' groups have condemned Mr Kirca for ridiculing women's affairs minister, Isilay Saygin who says she is still a virgin and proud of it.



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Sex claims in Anwar trial fuel gay fears

John Gittings in Kuala Lumpur

FURTHER allegations against Malaysia's former deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim, emerged at his trial yesterday when the prosecution claimed that he had been under police investigation for sexual misconduct six years ago.

The claim has heightened fears among the country's gays and sex education campaigners that the case against Mr Anwar, who is accused of corruption and sodomy, may hinder their cause.

According to Mohd Said Awang, director of the police special branch and the prosecution's first witness, Mr Anwar was the subject of a covert operation, codenamed Solid Grip, into "sexual misbehaviour" as far back as 1992. The investigation was

> 'Our concern is the cascading effect of these allegations. We don't know where it may lead'

before the period to which the current charges refer.

Mr Anwar's defence counsel objected strongly that the allegations would prejudice the case and amounted to a "smear". But the judge, Augustine Paul, accepted the prosecution's argument that the existence of the operation was relevant, although he ruled that it would not be examined further.

The word "sodomise" has become part of the media's vocabulary. Readers of the pro-government press are reminded on every possible occasion that Mr Anwar is accused of five such offences under section 377B of the penal code. (All but one of the five corruption charges, which are being tried first, relate to these allegations).

But the impression abroad that sexual diversity in this predominantly Muslim country is harshly dealt with is misleading. In recent years there have been few cases of this section of the code being invoked against consenting adults.

In theory the section applies to oral and anal sex, whether between partners of the same or opposite gender. But its use has been chiefly confined to sex crimes against minors.

The question now is whether, after the central role played by sex in this high-profile case, textbook offences inherited from colonial law can be decriminalised.

"We have to be very, very careful," a campaigner for sex awareness said. "Everything has become political."

No one wishes to talk on the record, and even organisations named in the telephone book ask not to be mentioned.

Those campaigning on a wide range of sex-related issues, from Aids education to the rehabilitation of sex workers, have always kept a low profile. Islam condemns homosexuality and is generally hostile to contraception.

But a range of non-government bodies has done much quiet and effective work, from providing sex workers with condoms to counselling gays, showing that Islamic doctrine is less rigid on these matters than is often assumed.

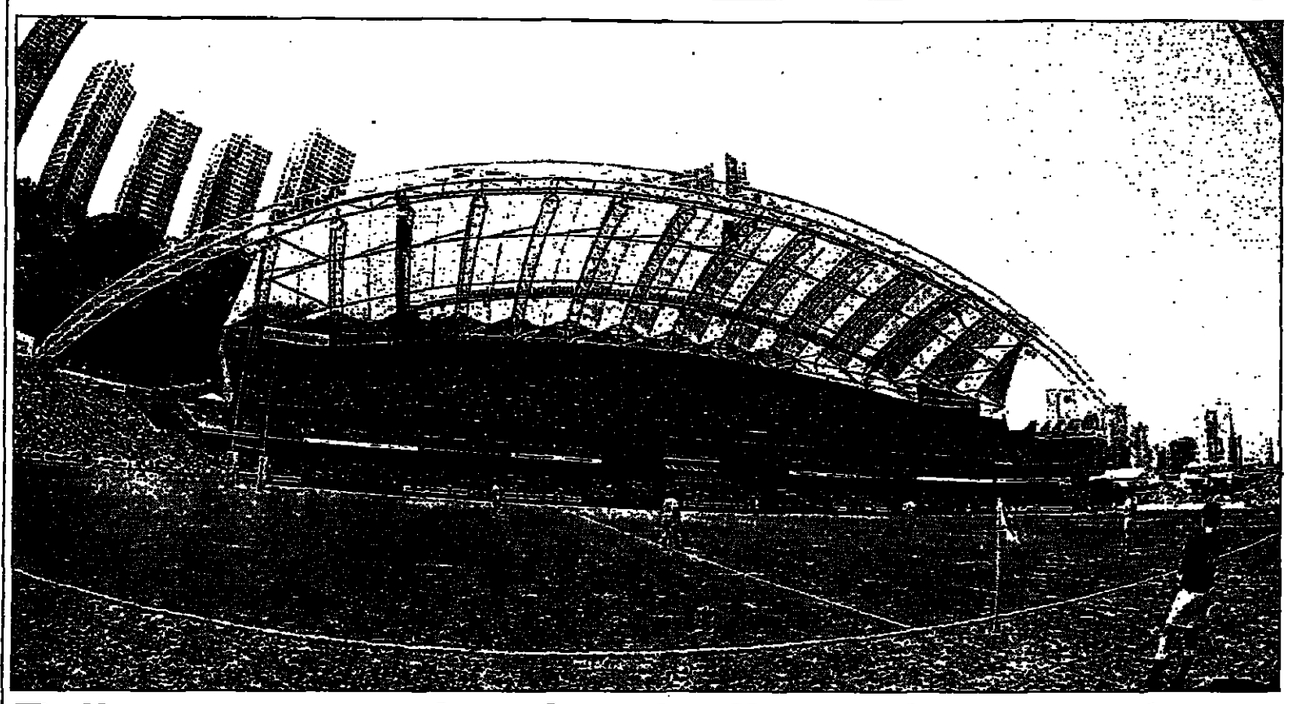
The Malaysian Aids Council — whose president, ironically, is Marina Mahathir, the daughter of the prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad — produces explicit sex education material for young women. This accepts the reality of sex outside marriage and of same-sex relationships, and refers to sexual practices labelled as "unnatural" in the penal code.

Not surprisingly Ms Mahathir, who has written extensively on Aids and sexual tolerance, is not expected to issue any more statements in the near future.

"Our concern is basically the cascading effect [of the sex allegations]. We don't really know where it may lead," one voluntary worker in this field said.

The real test may come next year when Malaysia hosts the Fifth International Congress on Aids in Asia and the Pacific. Aids is no longer stigmatised as a gay illness in Malaysia, but the congress in October will provoke wider discussion of sexual issues.

Match-fixing scandal









The national football stadium in Hong Kong and, from top, three of the five players charged with match-fixing yesterday: Philip Chan Chi-keung, Wai Kwan-lung and Kevin Lok Kar-win

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID ROGERS

Bribes case grips football-mad Hong Kong

Danny Gittings in Hong Kong

FIVE football stars yesterday appeared in court to face charges of fixing a World Cup qualifier and other matches in a suspected international bookmaking racket that may have seen some bets handled by a British syndicate.

Fans in football-crazy Hong Kong, who are more accustomed to following English Premiership matches, have been transfixed by the allegations of foul play at home.

Four of the accused are charged with conspiring with a former Liverpool youth team player, Alan Chan Tsz-kong, to take HK$200,000 (£17,000) from a local bookmaker to throw a match against Thailand in March last year. Hong Kong lost the game 2-0 and failed to qualify for the World Cup.

Chan, aged 26, played as a striker in the match. He was jailed for a year in July after admitting his part in the conspiracy and is being held in a luxury suite. In return, he is expected to give evidence against the four: goalkeeper Kevin Lok Kar-win and midfielder Lee Wai-man, both 25, defender Philip Chan Chi-keung, aged 28, and striker Wai Kwan-lung, aged 22.

Together with a fifth accused, winger Lau Chi-yuen, aged 29, they also face charges of fixing domestic matches dating back to 1995. All denied the total of 17 charges against them yesterday. But they were barred from leaving Hong Kong and ordered not to interfere with prosecution witnesses.

A magistrate, Garry Tallentire, described the charges as "extremely serious" and said it was incredible the prosecution had not demanded tougher bail conditions. The trial is not expected to begin until next year.

The players were arrested in June with 30 other suspects, including a police sergeant and computer expert, when anti-triad officers uncovered a huge illegal bookmaking syndicate, believed to have handled bets totalling more than HK$90 million.

Fourteen further arrests were made in a simultaneous sting operation against two gambling dens in Singapore. Investigators believe syndicates elsewhere in Asia are also involved, and that some bets may have been passed on to illegal operators in Britain and Gibraltar via computer.

Most forms of gambling are illegal in Hong Kong, where many Britons still play for local teams, despite last year's reversion to Chinese sovereignty, and much of the population stayed up to watch the World Cup on television.

While bribery has long been suspected, the image of the game has been tarnished by the recent revelations. "You sold yourself, you sold your sport and you sold your future for a few thousand dollars," a magistrate, John Brennan, said in July while sentencing Alan Chan, who was the first local player to admit match-fixing in court.

"When I was much younger, the highest accolade of a footballer was to represent his country. Nowadays, in this atmosphere of rampant professionalism, the first question asked by a football player is, 'How much am I going to be paid?'."

Suharto orchestrated riots, official inquiry says

John Aglionby in Jakarta

INDONESIA'S former president Suharto and elements within the country's armed forces helped orchestrate the riots that rocked Jakarta and other cities in May, an official fact-finding team announced yesterday.

They said the aim was to create an emergency that would allow the ailing dictator to tighten his grip on power. The 26-page report also contradicted army and police claims that no women were raped during the unrest between May 13-15. It said that at least 66 women were raped, many in public.

Marzuki Darusman, the head of the investigating team which took three months to complete the report into the worst unrest since the 1960s, said: "The whole process preceding the riots had a very clear political dimension — including efforts to secure extraordinary powers based on a decree giving the president [Suharto] extra-constitutional powers to overcome any temporary emergency situation".

Mr Suharto was in Egypt during the riots, but yesterday's report supports widespread speculation that he ordered the disturbances so he could return and re-establish his iron grip on power. By May this had been weakened by nine months of massive economic collapse and mounting popular protests against his authoritarian regime.

Mr Suharto was overtaken by events, particularly the snowballing protests, and was forced to resign five days after he returned.

Within six weeks, independent organisations were reporting some of the horrors. The most prominent, the Volunteers for Humanity, said 1,190 people died and 168 women, mostly of ethnic Chinese origin, were raped.

Mr Suharto's successor, B. J. Habibie, ordered a formal investigation. The team he set up under Mr Darusman, deputy chairman of Indonesia's human rights commission, included government officials, members of the armed forces and representatives of non-governmental organisations.

All five cabinet ministers responsible for the fact-finding team were conspicuously absent from yesterday's announcement at the department of justice. Highly visible, however, were several lorry-loads of heavily armed soldiers.

The team said it had evidence that 52 women were raped, 14 of them accompanied by violence, and 10 others suffered sexual assaults.

Mr Darusman said: "The team found the majority of the rapes were gang rapes, where the victims were raped by a number of people at the same time and in the same place." He added that most were committed in front of numerous onlookers.

Big Apple sets the pace as Americans race to the polls

Michael Ellison in New York

THE New York race for the Senate between the Republican incumbent, Al D'Amato, and the Democrat contender, Charles Schumer, has been described as one of the ugliest and dirtiest in the United States. It is also one of the tightest and most expensive. "It's worthy of New York," a political analyst said.

Warren Kalbacker was going about his civic duty yesterday, as he always does at election time, at the Associated Blind building near the bohemian landmark, the Chelsea Hotel.

"I'm not sure that any election is exciting, but in my family it's a religion to vote, whether we're interested or not," the magazine writer said. "My parents even gave me a dinner when I was first old enough to vote and I haven't missed one since."

"I don't know whether this presidential scandal stuff makes any difference." At least he cared enough to wonder. As few as one in three New Yorkers was expected to follow Mr Kalbacker's religious code and go to the poll.

They cannot have been encouraged much by the two men handing out campaign leaflets on West 23rd. One said "I no speak English" and the other did not know where the voting booth was.

Inside the building the depleted electorate was deciding who would hold each of 10 offices, from state governor to supreme court justices. Voters make their choices behind a black curtain in a box containing a machine with a series of levers, like operating a fruit machine, a tortuous system that has been compared to the old Soviet model.

In fighting the campaign, neither New York candidate has relied too heavily on their contrasting records on crime, abortion, the economy, education, health care, civil rights or the environment. The real battleground was personality. Mr D'Amato, who has held his seat for 18 years, said Mr Schumer was a lazy liberal. Mr Schumer said that Mr D'Amato was a liar.

And they said it time and again in one of the most heavily bankrolled Senate elections ever, with Mr Schumer, the Democratic-Independence-Liberal candidate, laying out $12.5 million (£7.5 million) and Mr D'Amato, on the Republican-Conservative-Right to Life ticket, spending twice as much. "I was insulted," said one woman. "We're far too intelligent for all that."

The issues might never have emerged, but the political stars did. The Democratic establishment showed how much a Schumer victory mattered to them, with President Bill Clinton campaigning twice for the nine-term member of Congress, Mrs Clinton four times and Vice-President Al Gore also twice. For the president, it was not just a case of taking care of business. He has a personal interest in seeing the back of Mr D'Amato, who chaired the Senate Whitewater inquiry where he made a strong attack on the Clintons.

Mr Schumer, liberal but not too liberal — he backs the death penalty — is the most formidable opponent Mr D'Amato has faced, and went into election-day level in the polls.

"Schumer is matched in New York politics only by Al D'Amato himself in terms of chutzpah and fortitude," said Ross Baker, a political scientist at Rutgers University.

But the Republican senator has a reputation for producing an unexpected close to his campaigns and this year he did it again.

In a comment worthy of shock-jock Howard Stern, Mr D'Amato called Mr Schumer a "putzhead" — or fool — as they squabbled over their respective levels of commitment to Holocaust survivors.

Days of semantics ensued, but the spat had a serious side in the fight to woo the normally Democratic Jewish vote. Six years ago 41 per cent of Jews voted for Mr D'Amato, an Italian Catholic, over another Jewish Democrat, Robert Abrams.

As for Mr Stern, his endorsement of Mr D'Amato has been touted as a potential deciding factor simply because he has a large, politically detached audience which could make all the difference in a tight race. And in eight years, he has never backed a loser.



Despite this queue to vote yesterday in Wilmore, Kentucky, the turnout for America's mid-term elections was set to be low

PHOTOGRAPH: BRECK SMITHER

Polish success story hides fears of exclusion

Martin Walker in Brussels

THE new Opel car manufacturing plant in Poland's Silesian rustbelt goes into its first full week of manufacturing today, as the Polish government launches a programme of advice for the Ukraine on how to achieve the transition to a successful market economy.

The timing of the two events, as the European Commission is about to issue its closely watched interim report on the progress being made by the candidate states of eastern Europe, looks deliberate. But with multi-billion dollar investments from Fiat and Daewoo, and the value of the zloty back to where it was against the dollar before Russia's financial collapse, Poles claim they are two more examples of eastern Europe's most impressive success story.

Poland, however, remains deeply nervous, despite scoring GDP growth of more than 7per cent for the past three years. The remark by the new German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, that European Union enlargement "looks a lot more difficult than it did" sent deep waves of alarm through Warsaw.

His foreign minister, the Green leader, Joschka Fischer, decided he had better add Warsaw to his first foreign jaunt that took him to London and Paris, to reassure the neighbours. He was not altogether successful, because Mr Fischer did not repeat those grandiose promises of Mr Schröder's predecessor, Helmut Kohl, and the French president, Jacques Chirac, about Poland joining the EU by 2000. Optimists these days talks about 2003; realists says 2006 at the earliest.

"The creation of a unified Europe is in the interest of Germany," Mr Fischer said in Warsaw after talks with his Polish counterpart, Bronislaw Geremek. But he stressed that he was no fortune teller, and refused to discuss target dates for Poland's entry, saying: "We need realism. A vision is important, but equally important is a friendly discussion about how to realise our interests equally."

However friendly, their talks focused on two tricky issues: German fears of low-wage Polish workers using EU freedom of movement rules to undercut German jobs; and Polish fears of rich Germans buying Polish estates on the cheap.

In the Commission, officials stress that the pre-negotiation screening process is on track for all 12 applicants for membership.

In the first wave are Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Estonia and Slovenia (plus Cyprus, if the politics can be resolved). In the second wave are Lithuania, Latvia, Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia, with Turkey on one side as a special case. But the fact is that the whole enlargement portfolio is constantly being jostled off-track by unexpected events.

Take Malta, where the September election returned a government which revived the formerly frozen application to join the EU.

Democratic, prosperous and stable, Malta should be a shoe-in for fast entry. Even the Commission agreed it would only have to update the work it had already done for Malta's accession.

But Malta's application is now on hold, and the Commission says it will not able to submit its report until after the EU summit in Vienna next month. The reason is that everybody wants to avoid another row over enlargement at Vienna, like the one a year ago over Turkey which overshadowed the Luxemburg summit.

Capital's humiliation ends as mayor replaced

Julian Borger in Washington

YESTERDAY'S elections will end one of the great anomalies of US politics — the three-year humiliation of the city of Washington by federally appointed administrators imposed after Congress judged the country's capital unfit to govern itself.

From next year Washington will regain the substantial powers stripped from it in 1995 as a result of the scandal surrounding its flamboyant mayor, Marion Barry (pictured right). He leaves office on January 3.

Mr Barry, a former crack cocaine addict, announced this year he would not stand for re-election, bowing to Democratic Party pressure.

Most of his spending powers were removed and transferred to a financial control board after the city slid to the brink of bankruptcy and municipal services collapsed. He was not even allowed to attend meetings where the five-member financial responsibility and management assistance authority made its decisions on the city's finances.

Mr Barry was left with limited control of libraries, parks and playgrounds.

After three years of direct rule, the crime rate is down, the budget is balanced and the city's schools have opened on time for the first time since 1995.

The decision to restore local democracy to Washington turned yesterday's mayoral race into one of the most important in the country. Last night Anthony Williams, a bow-tied black Democrat who ran on his record of financial rectitude as a member of the control board, was thought to be ahead of the Republican candidate, Carol Schwartz.



Way open to ETA talks

Jane Walker in Madrid

A PEACEFUL solution to the violence in the Basque country moved a step closer yesterday when Spain's prime minister, José María Aznar, said he had agreed to initiate contacts with groups close to the separatist organisation ETA.

Mr Aznar said that his government had become aware in recent weeks of a new atmosphere in the troubled region of north-west Spain and felt the time had come to test whether ETA's six-week ceasefire was genuine.

Although he gave no details on when the talks would begin, or where and at what level they would be conducted, he said they would be as "transparent as possible while maintaining the necessary discretion".

The government's spokesman, Josep Pique, confirmed that the preliminary contacts would be with the Basque National Liberation Movement, a group close to the terrorist organisation, to see whether ETA was prepared to lay down its arms. He said the talks would "compare and contrast opinions on both sides" to gauge whether the climate was ripe to continue with more high-level negotiations.

The move towards negotiations launches Madrid into difficult waters. Concern has been expressed, notably among the families of ETA's victims, that too many concessions will be made to the gunmen.

The regional elections 10 days ago passed off peacefully for the first time in more than 20 years and voters showed a clear desire for continued peace.

The Euskal Herritarrok, formerly known as Herri Batasuna, ETA's political wing, made significant gains and is now the second largest political force in the region.

Yesterday's announcement on negotiations was welcomed by all the political parties, although the spokesman for the opposition Socialists, Juan Belloch, complained that the decision had been reached without other parties being consulted.

Comment

Diary

Matthew Norman

THE great mystery of the Pinochet affair — what in God's name was Robin Cook thinking of when he allowed the General into Britain — may have been solved. Earlier this week, when visiting his hairdresser, Taylor's of St James's, Tariq Ali mentioned to the barber that Ugly Rumours, his satire on the Government, was opening that night at the Tricycle in Kilburn. That's funny, said the barber, I cut Robin Cook's hair. How interesting, said Tariq. Yes, said the barber, he's quite a nice fellow. Oh yes, and whenever he's in London, I cut General Pinochet's hair too. I gave him a cut the day before he went into hospital. So now we know. The Foreign Secretary clearly belongs to a secret, Masonic-style international brotherhood, the Square Scissors of St James's, whose members vow to act in each other's interests on pain of being scalped. The sign of recognition is a snipping motion with the index and third fingers of the right hand. Robin Twyman at the FO confirms that Cookie does use Taylor's, but studiously refuses to deny the Square Scissors allegation. "I cannot comment," he says, "on anything else."

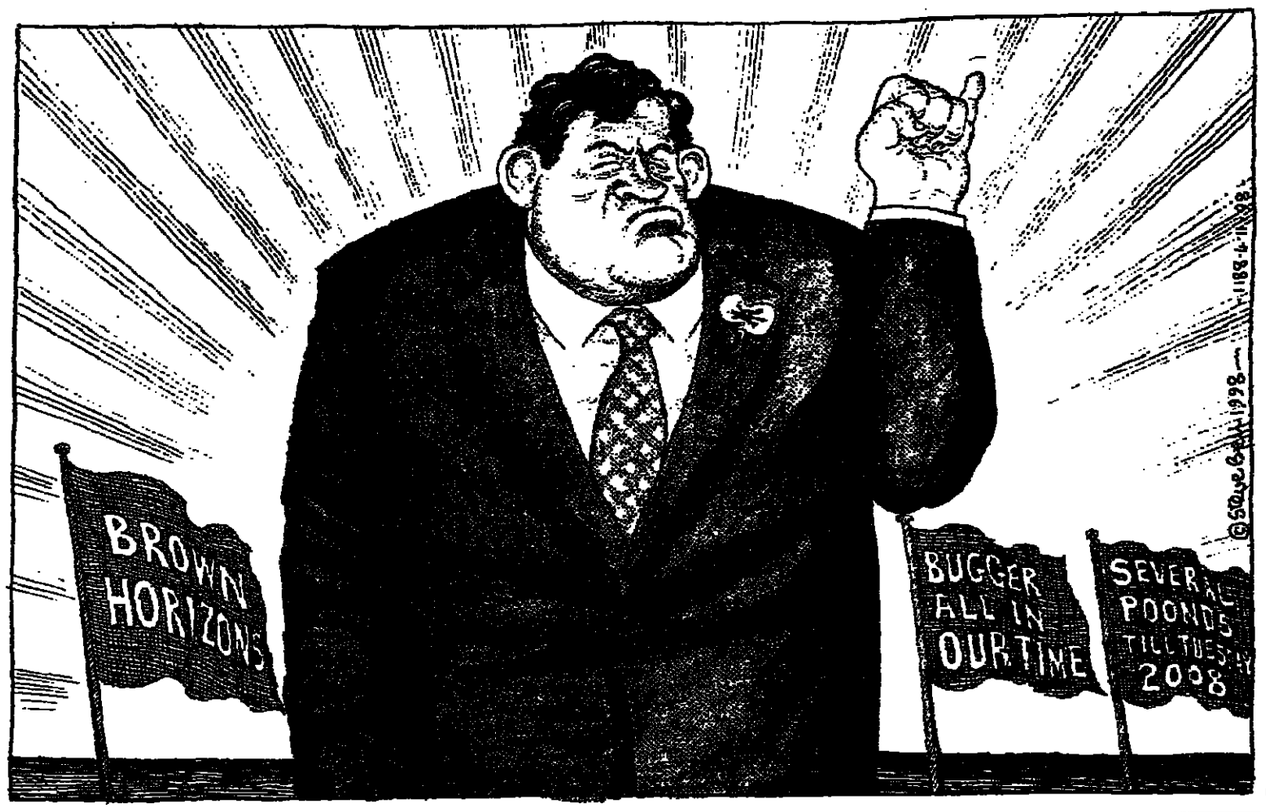
MEANWHILE, the General is on Paul Johnson's mind in a 70th-birthday interview with the Independent. "I had tea in Chile with Pinochet. He's totally harmless," says my sane and rational friend. "Don't believe he's ever hurt anybody." It is not this sensible remark, however, that lands him in hot water, but another. He describes the claims made in the Express by onetime mistress Gloria Stewart concerning the regular spankings he liked her to administer as "all lies, lies, lies. Pure invention." What has the silly old chump done now? Gloria intends to sue him for libel. Let us hope the explicit tape-recording Gloria made in Paul's house in early February is no obstacle to his defence.

FOR all his power, Bill Gates seems oddly unloved by his own Microsoft programmers. Anyone with Microsoft's Windows 95 (or more recent Windows software) might open a new document, change the language to "English (United States)", and type the words "I'd like to see Bill Gates dead". Highlight the sentence, select "Thesaurus", and the suggested alternative reads: "I'll drink to that."

MY colleague Jonathan Freedland receives a letter from Oofy Wegg-Prosser. "I have attached a copy of the speech Peter gave to the CBI annual conference earlier today," writes Oofy. We turn to the document. "Speech by the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the CBI national conference," it announces at the top. Has a reshuffle taken place in secret? Or is Oofy slow to recover from dinner at my house on Friday night . . . a dinner which was, beyond dispute, the most joyous and memorable event this column has known in recent years. I am still too shocked to write about it today, but it will be the subject of a Diary Special — on no account whatsoever to be missed — tomorrow.

THE Government is furious, it is reported, that my friend Lord Bell is advising the South African government on its campaign for the 2006 World Cup. We all know how much Mr Tony Blair adores football (and will adore it, indeed, until the moment it begins to go out of fashion), and wants the tournament to be held here. In which case, he should relax: there could be no better boost to England's pitch for the 2006 World Cup than news that Timmy is working for the main rival.

I AM surprised by a Telegraph article, in the form of a letter, by its letters editor (he is plugging his new book — a collection of letters, coincidentally, to the Telegraph.) Perhaps unaware of letters etiquette, the author wrongly signs it "David Twiston Davies, London E14." In fact, David lives — and where else could a Telegraph letters editor live? — in Tunbridge Wells. Poor show.



Coming soon in an election near you: candidates similar to Old Man Tuttle

Jonathan Freedland



THE pundits are calling it the Seinfeld Election: like the now-defunct sitcom, yesterday's mid-term contests in America were, say the experts, essentially about nothing. OK, the face of Monica Lewinsky hovered above the whole affair — so that this morning's results will be interpreted as a referendum on the impeachment of President Clinton — but according to the punditocracy, there was no single question of policy that dominated the autumn campaign. Instead it was merely a string of unconnected races, each one preoccupied with its own, narrow concerns. The famous maxim coined by the grizzled old Speaker of the House, Tip O'Neill, was never truer: in the America of 1998, all politics was local.

But that's exactly why we in Britain should be interested. For the sheer range of the conflicts settled last night is proof of what happens when power is spread around a political system. Devolution and reform of our second chamber, both now under way in our own country, will have all kinds of effects — and one of them is visible right now, across the Atlantic.

For an election junkie, it's been a feast — with the Big Apple of New York the obvious starter. There two veteran political bruisers have been whacking each other hard in the season's dirtiest battle, the race to represent New York in the senate. The incumbent was Al D'Amato, a thuggish, ethically-challenged practitioner of old-time pork-barrel politics. For that reason alone, New Yorkers have tended to forgive his crude, street-fighting manner — the one which led him to brand his Democratic opponent, Chuck Schumer, a "putzhead".

Schumer struck back, accusing D'Amato of using a "Yiddish slur" as a veiled form of anti-Semitism. And, of course, this was the subtext of the battle of New York. For D'Amato is Italian and Schumer is Jewish — in a state where those two communities, along with the Irish, have always rivalled each other for pre-eminence. That's why D'Amato posed in front of a memorial to Holocaust victims, and why Schumer went on air to brag about the relatives he lost to the Nazis. It's crass, it's ugly — and quintessentially New York.

A study in contrast has been on offer across state lines, in Vermont. There a 79 year old retired dairy farmer by the name of Fred Tuttle ran for the US Senate. Or rather shuffled, for Fred — who has no political experience whatsoever — needs a Zimmer frame to get around. And he did not shuffle very seriously, raising a budget of just $200 and long ago announcing his intention to vote for his opponent.

No, Fred Tuttle was the Republican candidate simply because he wanted to take a stand. The nomination had been sought by an out-of-state businessman, a millionaire who Old Vermonters feared would change the character of their charming, rustic state. The newcomer talked the language of mega-scale agri-business, not family-sized farms, and Fred decided he'd take him on. With no money and no political base, he won the endorsement of Vermont's two most famous dairy farmers — Ben and Jerry — and eventually knocked out the big-spending carpetbagger. The winning blow came in a radio debate, when Fred asked his slick rival how many teats were on a Jersey cow and how many on a Fresian. The candidate was spluttering something about six on one, seven on the other when Old Man Tuttle set him straight: all cows have just four teats. The nomination was his.

IN CALIFORNIA, all that state's legendary preoccupations were on display. The Republican, Matt Fong, was attacked for being insufficiently green on the environment and intolerant on gay rights — big news in San Francisco. Meanwhile, Californians had a chance to step up their war on smoking by passing the Reiner Amendment, a referendum championed by the actor and director Rob Reiner putting 50 cents on a packet of fags and diverting the proceeds to needy children. Hollywood and health — a perfect Californian blend.

And this is how America's biennial mid-term bout of democratic fever courses through the veins of the US body politic, refreshing the local parts national elections cannot reach.

At the moment, British politics is not much like that. A few MPs can claim a personal following, the odd constituency occasionally hosts a juicy race. (Last year there were a couple: Tatton's battle of Hamilton v Bell, and Exeter's clash between Ben Bradshaw, who's gay, and the "family values" campaigner, Adrian Rogers.) But, ordinarily, British parliamentary elections are merely mini-versions of the nationwide contest, with local factors kept to a minimum.

That could soon change. Elections for the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly will tease out questions rarely aired across the UK. The London mayor's race promises a New York-style battle royal, with shameless pandering to the city's minorities and, perhaps, the championing of newer causes, including some that would be deemed dangerously progressive beyond the capital. New, larger constituencies — whether for a post-Jenkins Commons or an elected second chamber — will also require more regionally-conscious politicking.

All this may not bring Westminster a fast-talking Italian or a hobbling dairy-farmer, but that's the point: the coming diffusion of power will give us a new crop of local heroes — our very own.

This plan for 'the family' is a mish-mash of good and bad

Push-pull position

Polly Toynbee



TODAY'S Home Office paper on the family will be a hybrid beast, a Pushmepullyou facing both ways. Half this Janus-headed thing looks backwards, yearning for golden 1950s family certainties, and half of it looks forward to the way families actually are.

Gordon Brown's green budget yesterday reminded us that the most important things this Government is doing for the family spring from the Treasury: far more generous subsidies to poor working families, serious money for child care and for poor 16-year-olds in education. The Home Office, striking at the earliest roots of crime, brings in the Sure Start programme to rescue the most deprived young children. All this is the forward looking part of the Government's family policy, with every hope of helping the most miserable families.

Its backward looking face is that of the three Christian family men — Blair, Straw and Boateng — sailing dangerously close to back-to-basics: they hardly needed Ron Davies as a warning. However often they keep saying that they are not interested in the private sex lives of adults, they are learning the hard way that by clothing some of their key social policies in this family package, they excite all the wrong expectations on all sides.

Today's paper will please few, which is a shame since so much of it is very good indeed. But the best is jumbled up with a rum hotch-potch of marriage-saving devices which look like family values gift-wrapping. The three Christian men seem to believe in some muddled fuzzy way that the state can encourage people to marry and stay married, though when it comes to particulars, these are risibly feeble. Despite the lack of any big moral stick or juicy financial carrot, that code word "family" and a firm statement in favour of marriage already has liberals and feminists foaming at the mouth.

It will not please the Spectator crowd either, those effete laconic laissez-faire libertarians who sneer at all social policy as boring do-gooding. They will write their usual ignorant, don't-know-don't-care pieces protesting at Labour's interfering nannyism, as if their own well-appointed nurseries were about to be invaded by ravening hordes of woolly-hatted social workers.

IF IT was designed to appease the Daily Mail's bizarrely warped family crusade, it has already attracted their wrath along with the contempt of rightwing family campaigners such as Patricia Morgan and Melanie Phillips. They want large tax and benefit incentives for the married and a return to fault in divorce with heavy financial penalties for the One To Blame. These things the Government has absolutely no intention of doing. The new divorce law is in a mess and will need new legislation to sort it out but no one is going to bring back fault. The judges gave up on it long ago, not having the wisdom of Solomon or the days in court it would take to decide who did what to whom when, and whose behaviour was the most unreasonable.

No, the family values lobby will not be mollified with this document. It will just stir them up to no avail. The Mail ripped apart an interview Boateng gave the BBC this week: "Single parents and homosexuals should enjoy the same status as married couples bringing up children, a Government minister claimed yesterday," it wrote. Oh no, he didn't mean that, a briefer said quickly, or at least not quite. Well, he sort of did and sort of didn't, for all interviews on this policy will always trap ministers in the Pushmepullyou position. For he also said: 'Marriage is important, but stable relationships are important.'" Asked if cohabiting couples were equally important, he said: "Of course they're equally important." But then of course he had to add: "All the evidence is that if you are married your relationship is more likely to endure and be stable."

Not so. LSE research in progress demolishes the idea that marriage makes people stay together: cohabiting sometimes indicates fragile relationships but marriage wouldn't glue them together. So expect a glorious spectacle of more ministerial knickers twisting in the wind as they try to explain this policy today.

They didn't have to do this. And if they are wise, they will now stop doing it. This ragbag document tries to package up quite disparate policies, some of them banal and trivial, in the same parcel as some of the government's most important social policy big ideas. Civil baby-naming ceremonies may or may not become popular, but they will hardly change the culture of family life. But tax credits for child care so that women can work may well make a real difference to the wealth and happiness of many families.

Turning deeply reluctant registrars into civil vicars delivering homilies to marrying couples on family values is only mildly silly, but it certainly has no place alongside the £540m Sure Start education programme for the most disadvantaged infants. A mighty new role for health visitors really will reach into the dark heart of families on the edge, but pre-nuptial marriage agreements are neither here nor there. As for automatic legal rights for single fathers — however little they deserve them — that is an invention designed to pad out this policy that is potentially very dangerous.



Ministerial knickers will twist in the wind as they try to explain this policy

This is called a "consultation document" — not even a green paper. Much of it belongs in other policy documents, in work already in progress with Treasury money already given. My suggestion for their consultation process is that they take away this cobbled-together confection and dismantle it. Bring back the important parts separately to be debated in their own right, unclouded by the confetti of marriage ideas that distract and diminish the rest. Still to come are two very important papers on teenage pregnancy and domestic violence. Ominously, the ministerial group on the family is ploughing on, with promises and threats of more policies — maybe a Royal Commission on fathers and a policy on the problem of boys — both dubious starting points. This paper isn't joined-up policy, it's cobbled-together policies. It may get such a mauling today that ministers would do well to abandon the "family" and "marriage" labels altogether. Moralists think it bogus, libertarians think it nosey and liberals think it both authoritarian or hypocritical.

Pinochet's men did this to me and my friends. How can we let him go free today?

Blood cries out

Sheila Cassidy



IT WAS 24 years ago today that I was lying on on my bunk in the Villa Grimaldi, Chile's best-known interrogation centre. With me, in that small room, were 3 companions: Lelia, Francisca and Anna Maria. I was 37, and they were in their late teens and early 20s; university students who had become "involved in politics".

Stiff and sore from the electric shocks, I was bleeding heavily, my own blood mingling with the dried blood on my jeans: the blood of Ennquetta, the Columbian Fathers' housekeeper who was killed when I was arrested.

Once again, we watched through our barred window as the male prisoners were taken to the lavatory: a pathetic file of 50 men, young and old, each blindfolded, with a hand on the shoulder of the man in front. The day before I and my three companions had sat at our window and sung the Spanish version of Beethoven's Ode To Joy to them, but no one dared turn their head to acknowledge us.

Where are they now, these men? I do not know, but some must be dead, the others scattered to the four winds in the UK, France, Sweden, Norway or the former East Germany. By now, some will have returned to Chile, for the people's love of their land is very powerful.

Some time during that day 24 years ago, one of my guards came to get me. I was terrified, as on previous occasions I had been returned to the *parilla*, the "barbecue", which was their favoured aid to interrogation. This time, however, things were different: instead of my cloth blindfold, my eyes were taped closed with sellotape, and covered with sunglasses. An ordinary blindfold is not too bad: you can loosen it a little to see the ground, and walk without stumbling. I spent three days like that. But get someone to tape your eyes. Try it out. You can't see anything at all, plunged into a terrifying world of darkness, completely disoriented.

I was led away, some hundreds of yards, and told: "Wait here." I waited, blind, alone and afraid. Then I heard a powerful engine, a large vehicle revving up, and I thought: they're going to run me over.

I FEEL sick as I write, and the comforting shape of my room recedes. I feel dizzy, spaced out. But I don't worry, for the physical manifestations of anxiety are all too familiar and I know they will pass. The flashbacks too, have virtually stopped.

I remember some of them vividly: once I was driving to the hospice where I now work, and just before I passed a woman with a pram, the elastic in her slip went and it fell to her ankles. My mind made an immediate connection and I heard again in Spanish: *Sacarse su ropa*" — take off your clothes — which is what my interrogators said when I arrived at the Grimaldi.

I remember too, the Lenten suppers in the convent where I was later misguidedly trying to become a nun. The dry bread stuck in my throat just as it had when I was in solitary confinement. The sensation triggered the memory and I sat there in tears, as alone as I had been in prison.

And now, 24 years later, I am about to board the train to London to meet the barrister who will speak at the House of Lords hearing on behalf of those of us who wish to bring a prosecution against Pinochet.

He will also speak on behalf of the family of William Beausire, an Anglo-Chilean businessman arrested in Buenos Aires and returned secretly to Chile. William was seen in the Grimaldi in January 1975 by one of my fellow-prisoners. His sister is to be in London tonight, and the wife of the young American whose story was told in the film Missing.

We the living, the articulate, must be the voice of the thousands who have no voice: the family of the 2,000 "disappeared". I have lived to tell my story of torture at the Villa Grimaldi, of my sadistic transfer to Cuatro Alamos, of the 3 weeks in solitary and then a further 5 weeks in detention.

BUT many who were seen at the Grimaldi were never seen again. They were "disappeared". Perhaps some *were* run over as I feared I would be. Some were likely shot. Others died under torture. But their loved ones live on. That kind of grief does not resolve, but remains as a chronic heartache.

The British courts have it in their power to make an important stand for justice. How in God's name, in the names of the dead and the grieving, can they quibble over an outdated law? How can America feel it right to bomb Saddam Hussein, and England set free a similar tyrant? I believe that British justice stands in the dock today.

Dr Cassidy was arrested in Chile in 1975 (for treating an injured fugitive)

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'Does this mean that even horse racing can reflect modern politics?'
Toby Wood, Letters

Brown stays optimistic

He must cut interest rates

GORDON BROWN'S new spending initiatives — £250 million for the health service and £25 million for teenage training will be the immediate talking points of yesterday's pre-budget statement — but the real test is whether the Chancellor has done his macro-economic sums properly. What happens to economic growth and unemployment during the next couple of years is far more important in the long run than headline grabbing morsels, welcome though they are. Yesterday's statement is the second example of the Government's refreshing practice of setting out policy options for discussion in advance of the spring budget so they can be opened to national debate. Already a pattern is emerging in which slightly more gloomy speculation before the speech is not discouraged in order to put the statement itself in a better light. Contrary to some expectations, there is no suggestion of withdrawal of tax relief on pensions or a huge increase in "green" petrol charges (beyond inherited obligations). Projections for economic growth next year (1.0 to 1.5 per cent) are slightly above doused expectations and only a bit below the 1.5 to 2.0 per cent forecast at the same time a year ago. Growth projections for 2000 (2.25 to 2.75 per cent) are unchanged from a year earlier, notwithstanding the financial hurricane that toppled a quarter of the world into recession.

If this is true then the UK economy will experience a soft landing and John Redwood's criticism that Mr Brown's forecasts are "recklessly over-optimistic" will not come true. Who is right? On the fiscal side Chancellor appears to have prudence on his side. Public spending turns out to be £2 billion *less* this year than what were considered to be the draconian targets inherited from Kenneth Clarke. The result is that the year's budget will be £5.5 billion in surplus enabling the Government to repay £1.5 billion of the national debt. Mr Brown expects the budget surplus to be £1 billion next year, rising to £3 billion, £8 billion and £10 billion in subsequent years. If these figures are adjusted to the Maastricht criteria (ie deficits must not exceed 3 per cent of GDP) then the outlook seems rosy. There are surpluses, not deficits for the next three years, notwithstanding the substantial increases in public spending on health and education starting next April.

The danger signals are coming from the real economy. If growth is caught in a squeeze between the overvaluation of the pound (which hit exports badly this year) and unexpectedly bad side effects from the Asian crisis then all bets will be off. Against this if the UK benefits from the long overdue expansion of Europe's economy — responsible for half our trade — and, hopefully, from further interest rate cuts, then the pound may fall giving credence to the 3 per cent rise in exports forecast for next year.

In the long term, the most encouraging part of yesterday's statement was the batch of initiatives to improve the underlying potential of the economy — by encouraging enterprise, employee shareholding and innovation particularly among small firms. These initiatives include a review of the relationship between banks and small businesses, increased powers for the Office of Fair Trading to enforce competition, improving the skills of young people and encouraging venture capital. Little of this will hit the headlines but it is a necessary part of improving Britain's poor productivity record. Labour, in a historic political transformation, has convinced the CBI that it is working for business and enterprise. A few years ago this would have seemed like the Conservatives proving they are the party of the unions.

There were few surprises for hard pressed services — health, education, social services. To his credit, the Chancellor has protected his £40 billion three-year expansion of health and education but there may be a serious hiccup before then. The £250 million to help the NHS through the winter compares with £300 million last year. It only survived because of mild weather and the absence of the usual flu epimedic. Ministers may not be as lucky this time.

The £250 million to woo drop-outs back into education — foreshadowed in yesterday's Guardian Education — will tackle one of the nation's most serious problems: 200,000 young people aged 16 to 18 who have left school without qualifications. Now they are to be offered maintenance allowances of up to £40 a week if they agree to return to full-time education.

The Chancellor has every reason to be proud of the Government's welfare to work programme: a New Deal which will have helped 300,000 people by next April. Already 29,000 companies have signed up. Yesterday further extensions were announced: 60,000 opportunities in 28 areas for the longterm unemployed and a guarantee of new opportunities to unemployed people in Northern Ireland. The working poor will be better off under Labour with the working family tax credit, which was already guaranteeing a minimum income of £180 a week from next April, will now rise to £190 in October with no income tax to pay on incomes below £220.

All of this bolsters the Chancellor's ambition to balance enterprise with fairness. The main problem, as with so many administrations, is to prevent being "blown off course" during a period when forecasts for world growth have been halved. Mr Brown's forecasts still look too optimistic. And they will look even more optimistic if the Bank of England doesn't continue to reduce interest rates. Starting again tomorrow.

Malaysian stirfry

It needs a taste of justice

REMEMBER the fashion for "Asian values," the modish admiration for Singaporean and Malaysian notions of hierarchy, discipline and family order? Well, those values are on trial — along with Dr Anwar Ibrahim, the former deputy prime minister and finance minister of Malaysia. In September, Dr Anwar was confronted with a charge sheet which reads like an obscene publication, including 10 counts of sodomy, corruption and adultery. Opinions are sharply divided over those accusations, levelled against a devoted family man and pious Muslim. Instead Dr Anwar seems to be persecuted because of his past status as Malaysia's arch-moderniser and current position as focus of political dissent.

Hence today's fears for the fairness of his trial and his treatment in prison. In an earlier court appearance he had a black eye; when he returned to court this week he had clearly lost weight. Throughout the pre-trial period, Malaysia's prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad — in the job for an impressive 17 years — made public comments assuming the guilt of Dr Anwar.

Now that the trial is underway, there are fresh grounds for concern. The former minister wanted his case to be heard in English, so that foreign observers could see whether justice was being done. But this week the judge ruled that the trial had to be conducted in Bahasa Malaysia — the local tongue.

The judge has also ruled that it would be an "insult" to the High Court to grant special observer status either to outside human rights groups, including Amnesty International, or to the local bar council. All this hardly leads to great confidence in Dr Anwar's chances of a fair trial.

And yet this is the very same Malaysia, and the same Mahathir Mohamad, who were once so fond of lecturing Western governments and businessmen on the tigerish performance of the East Asian economies — suggesting their success was down to a stir-fry of Asian religious and social practices. When Malaysian growth rates were as high as the skyscrapers rising out of Kuala Lumpur, many Westerners were prepared to listen. The Tories even knocked out a version of their own: back to basics. But now that the Asian economic crisis has pulled the tigers' teeth, foreigners and Malaysians alike have lost their enthusiasm. Dr Mahathir may be right to be taking a stand against the excesses of global financial speculation, but his intemperate attacks on the West, Jews and unspecified enemies of Malaysia have hardly helped his case. Nor has the treatment of Dr Anwar.

Whatever the ultimate verdict, this episode is already marking a break in Malaysia's national life. The change of regime in neighbouring Indonesia has stimulated Malaysian appetites for better government: people there no longer seem willing to accept economic success in place of democratic reform. The trial of Anwar Ibrahim suggests Malaysians will not be satisfied by those much-vaunted "Asian values" alone. They also appear to hanker for a more universal ideal: justice.

letters to the Editor

from planes to a poem

ALAN Robinson (Letters, November 3) talks of the "salesperson" role of flight attendant. On short flights, there are either food trolleys or duty-free goods being wheeled along the aisle of the aircraft for most of the journey. There may be "two doors at the front and two doors at the back" for emergency escape, but no-one ever explains how to negotiate past the drink trolley in a dark, smoke-filled aeroplane, with all the passengers panicking.
S J Barber.
Hitchin,
Hertfordshire.

YESTERDAY'S Royal British Legion Novice Chase at Warwick was won by the favourite, Clinton Reaganesque one third at 13-1. Interesting, I'm Maggy, ridden by A. Doom, came nowhere. Does this mean that even horseracing can reflect modern politics?
Toby Wood.
Peterborough.

SURELY England's problem of identity (Letters, November 3) has much to do with our ingrained class system and the dilemmas posed by increased social mobility? The poet who has done most to explore the effects of this change is John Hegley. Who can forget his classic poem on the subject:

I member Luton
Al'm swallowing my
crolon

The next poet laureate, I think you'll agree.
Caitlin O'Reilly.
Cambridge.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full address. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. Please provide a reference to the relevant article.

Going to work on drugs

IN COMPANIES which have already installed random testing of employees for alcohol and other drugs (1 in 10 workers test positive for drugs, November 2), employees who either fail the test or refuse to take it are almost invariably dismissed, regardless of work record.

In such companies, employees at risk of failing a test tailor their drinking and drug-taking to avoid detection. They binge-drink at weekends or avoid cannabis in favour of more dangerous but more rapidly-metabolised drugs, for example. This neither improves their performance at work nor tackles the problem in society at large.

Where the safety of the public is dependent on the instantaneous judgment of an individual then perhaps random testing may be justified. It must, however, be introduced with the agreement of those affected, with remuneration for the invasion of their privacy and adequate compensation for those conscientious objectors unable to work under such an intrusive regime.

I look forward to Tessa Jowell recommending the random testing of MPs, City-types, lawyers, and other groups upon whose judgment the health of our society depends.
David Grandy.
Nottingham.

LABORATORY testing of the effects of illicit drugs cannot be used as evidence of the negative effects of drug misuse in the workplace (eg "pilots who smoked one cannabis cigarette had trouble controlling a flight simulator 24 hours later"). There may be some research evidence which links illicit drug use to increased workplace risk (be it to the employee or his or her colleagues or to the employer in terms of lowered productivity and/or increased absence or turnover).

However, often these studies fail to acknowledge much research literature in the US which has been unable to find a causal relationship between illicit drug use and increased workplace risk.

There is a danger of being sold the drug-testing myth. The relationship between illicit drug use and the workplace environment is much more complicated than your report suggests.

Moreover, the introduction of testing raises numerous issues regarding employee rights and civil liberties. A far better avenue to follow is a drugs and alcohol policy which not only excludes testing but one which favours an inclusive system of support, and only where needed (with problem users) some form of treatment.
Peter Francis.
University of Northumbria.

IT IS vital that companies considering random testing first establish a substance misuse policy. This should be followed by training and education, and only then should random testing be introduced. This has been the model for the armed forces, arguably the most successful corporate substance misuse programme in Britain.

I have found that, properly approached, random testing is welcomed by employees and contributes to a significant decrease in "stress" related absences; however, introduced badly, it creates at best resentment and mistrust, and at worst is perceived as an assault on employees' civil liberty.
Julian Hickman.
Managing director,
Galahad Substance Misuse Solutions,
Oxted, Surrey.



How MPs fail whistleblowers

THE Intelligence and Security Committee have taken some important steps in the direction of accountability (MPs demand spies curb, November 3). However recent disclosures by Richard Tomlinson (of MI6) and David Shayler (of MI5) have created an immediate need to reconsider the current systems of accountability and the work and organisation of the services. Instead of this happening both individuals have been imprisoned for their disclosures.

What I was most surprised by in Monday's debate is that not one MP asked any questions about any of these disclosures although many took the opportunity, with the safety of Parliamentary privilege, to criticise the motives of those who made the disclosures.

Given the failure of the Parliamentary system it is no surprise that whistleblowers choose to go to the press instead. The conviction and imprisonment of former officers is not the solution and is unlikely to make them stop disclosing material. In many cases it may have the opposite effect.
John Wadham.
Director,
Liberty.

The unspeakable in pursuit of France's uneatable

THERE is little consolation in knowing that French hunters largely kill and injure fellow hunters (French hunters' prey: themselves, November 2). In fact 10 per cent of those shot — more than 26 people — were not hunters. One of the first to go this season was a 10-year-old boy.

In my part of France, going out into the countryside during the season gives one the feeling of being in a war. It means running the gauntlet of armed men dressed in camouflage jackets hiding behind every bush, and continual anxiety with gunshots ringing out all around. There are hunters in public areas close to towns; I've seen them within yards of our local child day-care centre.

As for the comments of the National Hunting Office director, anyone in France who wishes to defend the indefensible uses the Revolution as an excuse; a barbaric period in France's history, producing for a time war and mayhem throughout Europe, means that now less than half the population can terrorise the rest for half the year. This is hardly liberté, egalité, fraternité. Perhaps if they did read books they would behave more reasonably.
Terence Hollingworth.
Blagnac, France.

Private finance is unhealthy

LARRY Elliot sounded a timely alarm bell on the Private Finance Initiative whereby a consortium of private firms combine to build a new NHS hospital (Revealed: biggest Tory scam, October 26). A high return for investors is the priority of these firms. There is still less accountability to patients and health care staff if a firm sells its share in the new hospital to an overseas business.

This lack of accountability to patients, families and health care staff unites Unison, the BMA and the NHS Consultants' Association in opposition to the Private Finance Initiative. Before Labour came to power, it too vehemently condemned the building of NHS hospitals by PFI. We await the Government's explanation of its conversion.
Dr M I Heatley.
Oxford.

Lord Jenkins continues to pick up a proportion of votes

I HOPE opponents of Lord Jenkins's proposed new voting system are going to be better informed than your correspondent, John Wilson (Letters, November 3). It is not true that Lord Jenkins switched parties while a sitting MP. He was a Labour MP in a Birmingham seat until he resigned on being appointed president of the European Commission. When his term of office ended, he set up the SDP with the other members of the Gang of Four and stood as an SDP candidate at Warrington (unsuccessful) and Glasgow Hillhead (successful).
Andrew Renshaw.
Warrington,
Cheshire.

PETE Willsman, recently elected to the National Executive Committee as a representative of the self-styled Grassroots Alliance, promises (Letters, November 2) that he and his comrades will be doing everything possible to "throw Jenkins out on his ear". As a member of the Jenkins Commission, can I point out that a recent survey of 6,000 Labour Party members by Professors Paul Whitely and Pat Seyd shows that 52 per cent of them support proportional representation for parliament, 27 per cent oppose it, with the rest neither for it nor against. In the light of this evidence, I am sure that we can expect the comrades to revise their position. If they do not, their pretensions to be representative of the grassroots will have been blown sky-high.
David Lipsey.
London.

PETE Willsman's letter typifies the kneejerk, ungracious reaction of most of those opposing the Jenkins commission recommendations. They seem to think that the voting system should serve their own interests rather than fairness, democracy or, indeed, the people.
Mark Ramsey.
Nottingham.

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Zurich	S.F.	218	382	703
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Single transferable coup

Mark Steel



FRED West's lawyers must be kicking themselves. If only they had thought of the head of state loophole whereby you're immune from prosecution if you're an ex-head of state, even if you only attained that position by murdering the previous head of state.

They could have advised Westto take time off from burying his neighbours, bum off the Queen and Prin Minister, and announce he was taking over for a while. Furthermore, he'd have been assured of a good pay-out to cover expenses, which would have gone a long way towards building costs.

The Lords, many of whom have spent years screaming about hooligans being let off with light sentences, seem destined to let a mass murderer free with no sentence at all. Not even 40 hours' community service, or a weekend with social workers saying to him: "I see — and when you set up this military dictatorship — how did it make you feel?"

The arguments for allowing Pinochet to go are almost poetic in their lack of logic. One is that he's a "frail old man". This could lead to a change in the law, with fitness replacing the crime as the criteria for the sentence. After a guilty verdict, the convict will do 10 minutes on an exercise bike, and the more you wheeze, the shorter your sentence. Another argument is that Allende's government was as guilty as the generals who overthrew it. Andrew Neil wrote that it was Allende's supporters who had "Chilean blood on their hands". So the murderer and murdered are equally to blame. Presumably if Andrew Neil arrived at the house of a psycho, he could look at the lunatic with a chain saw, then at the head in the fridge and say: "Honestly, you're both as mad as each other".

One of Allende's faults, which Neil, amongst others points out, is that he was elected on only 36 per cent of the vote. So I wonder if they told Roy Jenkins about their own ideas on how to top-up the seats of the minority parties. It's much simpler than Jenkins' proposal: you take the first choice of the greatest number of electors and kill him. It's called "The single transferable coup".

A common line has been that Pinochet is simply a "hate figure" for the left. Typical was the Daily telegraph editorial which complained about Peter Mandelson's "undergraduate ravings". Much better to conduct affairs in a mature manner, by pouring a chap a port and politely whispering: "Must say, that business with the electrodes was a rum old do."

AND there's the line that Pinochet helped Britain during the Falklands War, although at the time, part of the justification for the war was that Argentina was a military dictatorship. Besides, your average defendant in a murder trial wouldn't be advised to plead for clemency on the grounds that, apart from the offences he was charged with, he also helped his mate drown 300 people in an afternoon.

The daftest argument of all is that to convict him would upset Chileans. Thousands of marchers defied water canon in Santiago last week, chanting: "It's a carnival — the dictator's in jail". And the families of the victims are unanimous in stating that they could cope better with their loss if the general were brought to justice. Their case is so much more powerful than the one to release him, so how is he on the edge of going home? The answer lies with Pinochet's reasons for his actions in the first place.

Allende's Popular Unity coalition came to power on a wave of strikes and peasant uprisings, his most popular policy being to nationalise the copper mines. The country was brought to chaos, when lorry owners went on strike to undermine the regime, and they were joined by a campaign in which industriallists closed factories, and lawyers and doctors stopped work. To appease them, Allende made the fatal mistake of inviting generals into his cabinet and they seized their chance. A military regime was installed, Allende and thousands of trade unionists were murdered and profits were safe again. The High Court judges, Thatcher, the Lords, the Daily Telegraph, Andrew Neil and the others who defend Pinochet will drink tea with anyone who defends profits. Either that, or the Chileans have just developed an unfortunate coup gene.

Pinochet succeeded when the Popular Unity government played by the rules of legal niceties while he was preparing a whole new game. Now it looks as if another set of legal niceties will allow him to escape again. So Jack Straw should announce that he's being locked up for being an evil bastard and if there's no legal basis for it, so much the better. In fact he's being done for not paying his TV licence as well.

The worst scenario of all would be if he were convicted and sentenced by a British judge. Because they'd say: "There's only one thing that can do you any good my boy — a spell in the army."



Eve . . . responding to the radical wave that stirred Britain in the late 1950s

Martin Eve

Books to be red

IN 1956 Martin Eve, who has died of cancer aged 74, founded the small, socialist publishing house, Merlin Press. Eight years later came the first edition of the annual *Socialist Register*; just three weeks ago he was working on proofs of the next edition. In the years in between Martin was to publish such authors as Istvan Meszaros, Georg Lukacs and Ernest Mandel. In the 1970s there were several of Sheila Rowbotham's early works, and collections of Edward (E P) Thompson's essays, including the brilliant *Writing By Candlelight* and *The Poverty Of Theory*.

Through careful husbandry Martin was able to respond to the radical wave which began in the late 1950s. His first successes came in 1958 with two translations of Stendhal, after which he moved quickly into the then profitable area of reprints. By the middle 1960s he had a notable list of classic history texts, including books by Helen Cam, Jane Harrison, H L Gray, Maurice Powicke and Louis Berens.

It was, however, his political publishing that was to be at the centre of his activities, with new books, translations and reprints. There was a reprint of Ralph Miliband's *Parliamentary Socialism* and Thompson's revised *William Morris*. There was a four-volume facsimile reprint of *The Poor Man's Guardian*, introduced by Patricia Hollers, and Harney's *The Red Republican* and *The Friend Of The People*.

Martin was born and brought up in Orford on the Suffolk coast. His father, a well-known yachtsman, had retired there to oversee the Butley Oysterage. His mother, a Labour councillor for many years, was especially involved in child welfare issues. Martin won scholarships to Winchester Cathedral Choir School — music remained one of the joys of his life — and Bryanston, which he entered at the age of 13.

Already influenced by his mother's socialist ideas, in his late teens he moved towards communism. When Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union in 1941 Martin demonstrated his practical support for the anti-fascist cause by falsifying his age and joining the Royal Navy. As an ordinary seaman he took part in the 1942 Algiers landing, and was a junior officer on a destroyer during the 1944 Normandy invasion.

After being demobilised in 1946 he read history at Cambridge. There he met E P Thompson and, like many of his student generation, went to work on the Yugoslav railway project in the summer of 1947, as did both Edward and Dorothy Thompson. They and Martin were to remain close friends.

Thompson was also a great influence on Martin, who tried to follow the historian into the academic world of adult education. There may have been additional reasons but Martin's politics certainly proved, as for others, an obstacle that in the late 1940s and early 1950s was too great a barrier. So the first half of the 1950s found him working as a representative for the publishers, Michael Joseph; then came Merlin Press. His capital was always limited, and in the early years each book had to pay for the one that followed.

His father had encouraged both Martin and his sister, at a remarkably early age, to familiarise themselves with the intricacies of sailing; as indeed Martin was to do with his own children. In 1965 he bought the Privateer — a converted fishing smack — and 20 years on he wrote *An Old Gaffer's Tale*, a lively account of his sailings along the east coast, across the English Channel and into the Baltic. It became one of a new Merlin series and the *Seafarers* books became a flourishing niche of narrative writings on sailing — to which several distinguished sailing writers contributed.

MARTIN'S life changed radically in 1986, when he was diagnosed with lymphoma, and for the remaining 12 years of his life he became steadily more incapacitated. He walked with crutches in the final decade, until his last year, when he could move only by machine or wheelchair.

But the work of Merlin Press continued. He was greatly helped, financially, in these last years by one friend in particular, but no help would have been sufficient had Martin not showed a quite extraordinary tenacity of purpose and toughness of character and spirit. The role of his second wife, Pat, was central; and her caring devotion did not falter or diminish.

Martin Eve was always helpful to those who worked in the publishing world. He had a wide circle of friends in both European and American publishing. He leaves his books, his music — and his sailing. He is survived by one daughter, two sons, and their mother, and his wife Pat. He left many friends.

John Saville

Martin Weston Eve, publisher, born June 22, 1924; died October 26, 1998

Paul Misraki

Cole Porter in Les Halles

IN 1926 a group of young men from the very middle-class Lycée Jean-son-de-Sailly in Paris formed themselves into a band. They called themselves the Collegiate Five. Under their leader, Ray Ventura, they played in clubs and cafés, becoming well-known in the Rue de la Pompe. In 1930 they turned professional. By then they had lost some of the original members, such as Henri Guesde, nephew of the socialist leader Jules Guesde — but they had gained Paul Misraki, who has died after a long illness at the age of 90.

Misraki was born in Constantinople, then capital of the Ottoman Empire, of French parents of Italian descent. He was an infant prodigy, performing on the piano at the age of four and composing at the age of seven. He went to France to study music, but as he listened to Maurice Ravel and Erik Satie he also heard George Gershwin and Cole Porter.

Ventura had originally modelled his band on the American students who called themselves "collegians" and who financed their travels by playing jazz and swing to their fellow passengers on transatlantic liners. He went to America and met Paul Whiteman, the white exponent of "symphonic" jazz in the 1920s. As his band grew, dressed in white with blue ties, he also modelled himself on the top British bandleader, Jack Hylton.

Misraki was his pianist and resident composer. Indeed Ventura led one of the few continental dance bands to have an impact in Great Britain in the inter-war period.

In France, the 1930s was a stimulating decade for a songwriter. The emphasis was on entertainment for the masses through sport, the cinema, and — after the Popular Front had come to power in 1936 — holidays with pay. There was also the radio, the number of radio sets having increased from 500,000 to 5.5 million. This meant that songs and singers were in great demand. It was the time when, as the French put it, *le chant*, that which was formal, became *la chanson*, that which was popular.

Misraki's compositions sometimes used the words of a collaborator, André Hornez, but sometimes he wrote them himself. They brought him fame, but they also had to reflect what was happening in the real world. There was economic crisis, with tremendous differences between the rich and the poor: there was political conflict, accompanied by physical violence; there were the international anxieties of the pre-1939 years. Misraki dealt with all these problems in one very popular song.

One night in 1934, whilst eating, as he told the story, a delicious camembert, he wrote what the public wanted. He chose the most obvious of villains, the aristocracy, and he mocked them. He chose the most desirable of refrains, stating that everything would be all right. This was *Tout va très bien*.

It was a chanson-sketch. A marchioness telephones her butler, who is called James (very aristocratic). She asks if there is any news. No, except that her favourite horse had perished. "But apart from that, madame le marquise, all is well." Then she is told that the horse has perished in the fire, and that her husband has killed himself. But, after each piece of news, the servant soothes her, "apart from that, madame la marquise, all is well . . ."

Two days after his song was first broadcast Misraki observed a workman in the street whistling it. It was a hit. The strikers who occupied the factories and the big stores of Paris in 1936, sang the song. When Ray Ventura *et ses collégiens* played to British troops in France in 1939-40 they played it — and the Tommies joined in the chorus. Other composers joined in with refrains saying that all would be well; Maurice Chevalier sang about the little *misères* that would be *passagères*.



Misraki . . . infant prodigy

Misraki adapted the English song, *We're Going To Hang Out The Washing On The Siegfried Line*, for the French in 1939, but after the defeat, as he was Jewish, he was forced to flee France and go to South America. There he continued to write music for films — he had begun in France whilst still working with Ventura — and was soon working for Ginger Rogers and Orson Welles. In the United States he was hailed as the Irving Berlin of France.

By his own calculations Misraki wrote 183 songs and the music for 145 films, including some made by Jacques Becker, Roger Vadim, Luis Bunuel, Claude Chabrol and Jean-Luc Godard. His work did fall out of fashion, but was frequently revived.

He wrote a number of novels, but was particularly famous in his final years in spiritualist circles. He wrote a life of Teilhard de Chardin and translated Raymond Moody's *Life After Death*. He was married, and is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

Douglas Johnson

Paul Misraki (Mikrachi), musician and composer, born January 28, 1908; died October 30, 1998

A Country Diary

TAMAR VALLEY: The Tamar runs brown and turbulent, forcing logs and debris seawards against the swirling, incoming tide. Further inland, on a tributary close to its source on Dartmoor, water gushes down Lydford gorge, roaring through potholes, boiling white in the Devil's Cauldron. Above this maelstrom, within black, polished rocks, the green chasm drips, rainwater trickling and sprouting from sodden moss and ferns. Steep, slippery paths lead to the White Lady waterfall, foaming down a slate slide. In the surrounding gloomy wetness, orange and yellowing leaves of tall oak and beech are luminous against the prevailing green of woodrush and mossy trunks.

This spectacular gorge, below Lydford's forbidding castle, has long been a compelling setting for myth, painting and story, the haunt of the notorious Gubbinses, a band of outlaws in the 16th century. Tourism became popular in the last century, and for a while the gorge was served by two railway stations, side by side, one on the London and South Western line from Okehampton, the other on Great Western's Plymouth-Launceston branch, both lines now defunct. Above the gorge, towards windswept Quither Common, driving rain saturates pasture fields, afforded little shelter by overgrown beech hedges.

Overlooking all is Brentor's isolated church of St Michael, built on a rocky crag, once an Iron Age hill fort, 1,100 feet above sea-level. A landmark for miles around, the church was reputedly built by a wealthy merchant as thanksgiving for surviving a terrible storm at sea, on the first land that he saw. Today, rain blots out Plymouth Sound and sweeps across the Tamar valley from Bodmin Moor. Beyond Black Down rain clouds obscure Dartmoor's highest tors.

VIRGINIA SPIERS

Margaret Jennings

Fast lady and daughters

THE racing driver Margaret Jennings, who has died aged 89, was one of only five women to hold the coveted 120mph Brooklands badge. She was initially a reluctant motorist, whose mother had ordered her to learn to drive — because the rest of the family was otherwise engaged — but she soon became interested in motor sport.

She was born Margaret Allan and her family ran the Allan Royal Mail shipping line, which was absorbed by Canadian Pacific in 1915. She was an accomplished horsewoman before she took up driving.

Convinced that competition driving could not be as difficult as it was made out, she borrowed the family's two-litre Lagonda to compete in events organised by the Women's Automobile & Sports Association, winning a gold medal in their June 1930 trial. That December, Miss Allan won the Ladies' Cup in the London-Gloucester Trial, again with the Lagonda.

In 1932 she co-drove a Riley Nine entered in the Monte Carlo Rally by the test pilot's wife Mrs Eve Staniland — they finished second in the Ladies' Cup — and entered the Lagonda, "thoughtfully fitted with an immense supercharger", in an inter-club meeting at Brooklands, where a "small but worrisome" problem with the engine led her to seek help at Robin Jackson's famous tuning establishment, the Robinery.

Here she met what she later recalled as a "wild enthusiast" named Christopher Jennings, whose Riley was in even worse shape. It turned out that he had known her cousin, and a friendship started which eventually led to their marriage in 1937.

Margaret Allen also entered the Lagonda in the Scottish Rally and won the Ladies' Prize. In the 1933 inter-club meeting at Brooklands, now driving a 4.5 litre Bentley, she won her first race. Her average was 87.53mph, she beat the Minerva driven by the veteran racer, G L Baker, by one second and lapped at 97mph.

In 1934, she drove one of three MG Magnettes entered in the Light Car Club's relay race at Brooklands. They finished third, despite torrential rain during the latter stages of the race, and won the Morgan Cup. This led to her being selected for an all-woman team entered by MG in the 1935 Le Mans 24-hour race — they were flippantly known as "George Eyston's Dancing Daughters", after the record-breaking Captain Eyston, who was their team manager. Allan was partnered by the Australian-born Colleen Eaton, and they covered 1,576 miles in their 847cc MG PA Midget. All three of the Dancing Daughters' MGs finished, qualifying the team to run for the Rudge Biennial Cup the following year. Sadly, this was thwarted by the French general strike, which prevented the 1936 Le Mans being run, and an order from the Morris management, which ultimately controlled MG, that the company was to withdraw from racing.

The same year Margaret Allan drove R R K Marker's 6.5-litre Bentley "Mother Gun" in the Junior Long Handicap at Brooklands, lapping at 98.62mph to finish 9.6 seconds behind Kay Petre in a Bugatti.

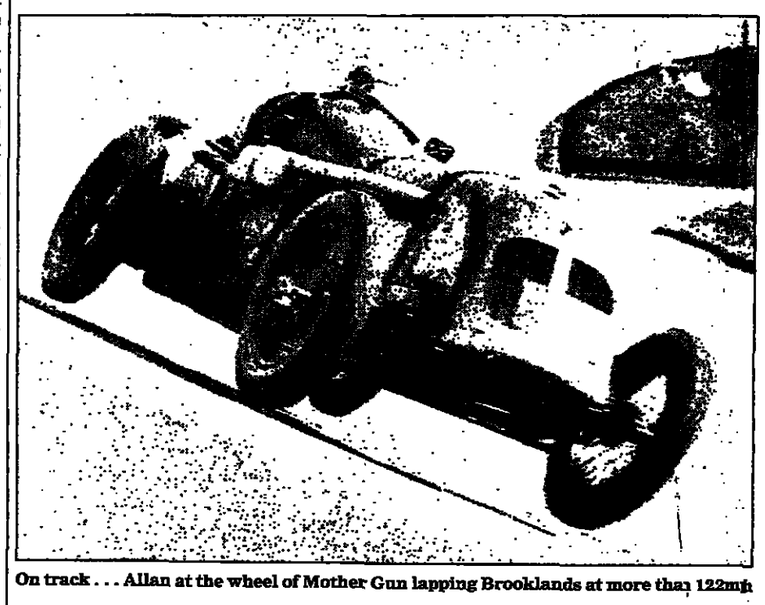
SHE also drove Mother Gun at Brooklands in 1936, too, lapping at over 122mph in the Second Whitsun Long Handicap to win at an average of 115.25mph. This was the race that earned her the 120mph badge.

Despite her racing achievements, Miss Allen was not allowed full membership of the British Racing Drivers' Club, although she was made an honorary member in 193. After her marriage to Christopher Jennings, who became editor of Motor magazine after the second world war she cut back on her competition motoring. There was talk of her taking charge of an all-women Army motorcycle repair shop during the war, but in fact she was recruited into the Foreign Office intelligence section at Bletchley, where she worked in the Italian naval sub-section from 1942-1943.

After the war she wrote on motoring for Vogue and devoted herself to developing her garden in Carmarthen. Her husband died in 192; she is survived by a son.

David Burgess-Wise

Margaret Jennings (neé Allan), racing driver, born July 2[illegible] 1908; died September 21, 1998



On track . . . Allan at the wheel of Mother Gun lapping Brooklands at more than 122mph

Birthdays

Dr Jean Balfour, former chairman, Countryside Commission for Scotland, 71; **Malandra Burrows**, actress, 33; **Art Carney**, actor, 80; **Walter Cronkite**, US anchorman, 82; **Elgar Howarth**, musician and conductor, 63; **Jeffrey Jowell**, professor of public law, University College, London, 60; **Thomas Klestil**, president of Austria, 66; **Rodney Marsh**, cricketer, 51; **Michael Meacher**, MP, minister for the Environment, 59; **Joan Rodgers**, operatic soprano, 42; **Prof Sir Joseph Rotblat**, physicist and Nobel Peace Prize winner, 90; **Prof Jill Rubery**, labour economist, 47; **Ralph Sutton**, jazz pianist, 76; **Loretta Swit**, television actress, 54; **Nigel Worthington**, footballer, 37; **Lena Zavaroni**, entertainer, 33.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

AN ARTICLE headed, A soul lost in shadow, G2, August 3, referred to Mr Kevin Page, who died while awaiting trial on a charge of rape. Mr Page's father has asked us to make clear that his son was pleading not guilty to the charge.

AN ARTICLE on pages 2 and 3, G2, October 14, about burial grounds, was illustrated with a photograph of Streatham Park cemetery, in south London, in which several graves were shown with the complete inscriptions on the headstones clearly legible. In one case this has caused considerable distress to the widow of a man whose grave is among those shown. The journalist who wrote the article says there was an agreement with the cemeteries that we visited in connection with this feature that no inscriptions would be shown in any published pictures. This failed to reach all those involved in handling the feature. We are very sorry for the distress and embarrassment caused by this lapse.

IN THE obituary of Christopher Wordsworth, page 15, November 2, we referred to Christ Church College, Oxford, instead of simply, Christ Church. In the same piece we should have said Clough Williams Ellis, not Clough William Ellis.

IN OUR list of Top-10 UK Hardbacks, page 11, Saturday Review, October 31, we said that Richard Attenborough was the author of *The Life of Birds*. We should have said David Attenborough. Sorry.

IN AN article headed Men behaving badly, pages 6 and 7, G2, October 22, we spoke of someone "wracked by guilt" when we should have said "racked". Wrack is seaweed.

THE AUTHOR of the appreciation of Sir Alec Cairncross, page 20, October 27, was Konrad Singer, not Karl. Apologies.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail should be sent to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

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Death Notices

ORBA, Alexander, died peacefully on Saturday 31st October 1998 at Moorgreen Hospital, Southampton. Alex leaves his wife Blithe, son Sandy, daughters Jean, Josephine & Victoria, & eight grandchildren. The funeral will be at Southampton Crematorium, East Chapel on Monday 9th November at 12 noon. Flowers and enquiries about donations to The Co-operative Funeral Service, 461 Butts Road, Shirley, Southampton SO19 1BZ. tel 01703 448 322

PALMER, October 30th at the Middlesex Hospital, Barry W. M. Palmer, aged 64 years. Funeral service at St. Michael's Church, South Grove, Highgate, on Tuesday, November 10th at 2pm. Donations, if desired, to the Middlesex Hospital c/o Leverton & Sons Ltd, 212 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1BD.

TIMAGUS, Charles Edwin, aged 77 on 29th October 1998. RNVR 1941-44. Journalist 42 years (industrial, political, scientific). Editor "Public Service" 18 years. Survived by wife of 54 years and two children. Short ceremony for close family, friends and colleagues. 2.15pm 9th November, Oxford Crematorium. Donations to Amnesty or homeless charity preferred to flowers. Enquiries to Co-operative Funeral Services 01865 306881.

WOOD, Ernest Henry, sadly missed by family & friends. Contact Co-op Funeral Services, Truro, Cornwall, tel 01872 273882.

Memorial Services

BAINES. A service of Thanksgiving for the life of Geoffrey Dunbar Baines will be held at 12 noon on Saturday, 7th November 1998 at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Parsdiee Road, Richmond, Surrey.

MACARTHUR. Joyce, a memorial service to celebrate the wonderful life of Joyce Macarthur, who died this October, will be held at the Pangbourne United Reformed Church on Tuesday 10th November at 2.30pm.

To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4707 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

Ted Hughes 1930-1998



"There is no question that he is one of the great poets of this century and one of the greatest of all time." Andrew Motion, poet

"He was a major voice, a very fine poet, and will be remembered alongside the likes of Milton and Keats." Al Alvarez, poet and critic

Birthday Letters, Forward Poetry Prize Winner 1998. Published by Faber & Faber. Hardback, 168 pages. CultureShop price £11.99 (rrp £14.99)

Ted Hughes' *Birthday Letters* are addressed, with just two exceptions, to Sylvia Plath, the American poet to whom he was married. They were written over a period of more than twenty five years, the first a few years after her suicide in 1963. Intimate and candid in manner, they are largely concerned with the psychological drama that led both to the writing of her greatest poems and her death. Countless books have discussed the subject from a necessary distance, but this is the first time that Ted Hughes has given his personal account.

Tales from Ovid, Winner of the 1997 Whitbread Book of the Year. CultureShop price £7.00 (rrp £8.99)

The School Bag, edited by Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes. CultureShop price £9.99 (rrp £12.99)

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Analysis
Chemical weapons



Brown's rum hotchpotch
8

PHOTOGRAPH: IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM



New routes to old poisons

The Hague convention of 1899 didn't stop the murderous gas warfare of Passchendaele (above). And this week's revelations show that Saddam Hussein's stockpile of chemical weapons is proof that the task has become infinitely harder. Owen Bowcott reports

THE revelation that Saddam Hussein hides his clandestine chemical weapons programme from even his most senior advisers will have sent a shudder through the international community. Baghdad's latest defiance of Unscom, the United Nations mission charged with destroying Iraq's secret stockpiles of Sarin and VX nerve agent, has been carefully timed. The West's resolve to bomb Saddam into compliance, as he well knows, is temporarily weakened.

The news from Abbas al-Janabi, one of the most senior defectors of recent years to escape with his life from the heart of Saddam's regime, is a reminder of just how difficult it is to control chemical weapons technology. Interviewed in the Guardian yesterday, Janabi claimed that even the Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, did not know that Iraq still retained nerve agents.

Trying to put the murderous genie back into the bottle once scientists had devised such a lethal arsenal was never a realistic prospect. Preventing proliferation of the "poor man's nuclear bomb", despite the advent of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), is proving a harder task than many imagined.

Obtaining the incontrovertible evidence necessary to prove that chemical weapons are being made or stored is often an elusive quest. Three months after the Pentagon launched a cruise missile attack on Sudan's Al Shifa pharmaceutical factory, for example, its justification is coming under renewed attack. It would not be the first time that American politicians have leapt to conclusions on the basis of microscopic residues.

In 1981, the US State Department claimed that Soviet aircraft were supplying toxins to communist guerrillas in the jungles of Laos and Kampuchea. Several years later, long after the international row over the incident had subsided, it emerged that so-called yellow rain was neither a biological nor chemical warfare agent but simply mass droppings of the giant honeybee, *Apis dorsata*.(1)

The aftermath of the Sudan attack illustrates the problems of basing pivotal foreign policy decisions on the complexities of chemical analysis. In background briefings, a US Department of Defence official declared: "We know with high confidence that Shifa produces a (chemical) precursor that is unique to the production of VX." The deadly nerve agent, discovered in the 1950s, was allegedly being supplied to Iraq's chemical weapons programme.

A few days later the assertions were more qualified. The US under secretary of state for political affairs, Thomas Pickering, revealed that the soil samples, allegedly obtained by a secret agent who penetrated the Al Shifa plant in the months before the bombing, "shows the presence of chemical whose simple name is EMPTA". It was "an indicator of a *potential* to produce VX gas".

The dispute over the uses of EMPTA, or more precisely O-Ethyl-Methyl-Phosphono-Thioic Acid, illustrates just how hard it is to obtain scientific, let alone political, agreement when seeking to control the chemical weapons trade. EMPTA can indeed be a precursor, or chemical constituent, of VX gas. But even the experts disagree on its legal status. Britain's Chemical Industries Association, for instance, suggests that EMPTA falls under schedule 1A/3 of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). "Chemicals in this schedule could possibly be used in small quantities for research, but they have little or no civil use in production", according to their spokesman.

But the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Hague-based international body responsible for enforcing the CWC since 1997, believes that EMPTA is covered in schedule 2B/4 of the convention. "There are approximately 10,000 compounds of this kind," observed the OPCW's spokesman, Donato Kiniger-Passagli. "There could be many, many applications for this (EMPTA). On the basis of our studies . . . these chemicals could be used as herbicides or insecticides." Schedule 2 chemicals, he adds, could "possibly be used for peaceful applications".

A further complicating factor is that new routes are always being devised to old poisons. To cope with the multiple permutations of chemicals, and the relative ease with which precursors can be combined into variations of lethal toxins, the convention lists families of multi-hyphenated compounds whose sale and export are controlled.

There they all are listed under their common or battlefield names: Sarin (first developed by the Nazis), its derivative Tabun, Soman, VX, Lewisites, Nitrogen and Sulphur Mustard gases, and Ricin. Contact with most of them would reduce the human nervous system to instant spasm, inducing suffocation. But alongside them are compounds such as Methylphosphonyl dichloride or Ethyldiethanolamine. It is these precursors, or chemical building blocks, which trigger so many arguments over whether they have legitimate, peaceful uses.

The developments of the past few months have heightened fears about chemical weapon proliferation among the OPCW's 200-strong team of inspectors. In September the Dutch confirmed that an El Al airliner which crashed into a block of flats in Amsterdam six years ago was carrying 42 gallons of a chemical known as DMMP, used in the production of Sarin. The containers were destined for the Institute of Biological Research in Nes Ziona, outside Tel Aviv, even though Israel has signed (but not ratified) the convention against chemical weapons. For years, Israeli officials had refused to comment on "those kind of reports". And last month the UN disarmament mission to destroy Saddam Hussein's former arsenal of chemical weapons confirmed that Iraq had developed the technology to put the deadly VX nerve gas into warheads before the 1991 Gulf War.

"The existence of VX degradation products conflicts with Iraq's declarations that the unilaterally destroyed special warheads had never been filled with any CW (chemical weapons) agents," the UN mission concluded.

Iraq immediately accused the United States of faking results. Even French scientists initially suggested that their findings of nerve agents could have originated from other compounds, such as detergents.

Like nuclear technology, the knowledge of how to create chemical weapons is becoming more widely disseminated. Even lone, crank scientists have succeeded in producing toxins. The most notorious is Aum Shinrikyo, the quasi-Buddhist cult which released Sarin into Tokyo's crowded underground in 1995 killing several commuters. Terrorist groups have so far refrained from such tactics, calculating, perhaps, that any ensuing backlash would discredit their cause.

IT would not be difficult for them, however, to develop chemical weapons. Precursors, the OPCW admits, are obtainable through commercial sources. "Thiodiglycol (listed in schedule 2 of the convention) is an ingredient in both felt pen ink and textile dyes, as well as a precursor of mustard gas".(2)

Precursors are often colourless, odourless and difficult to detect. Stored separately, they may be loaded into binary shells where they mix on impact to form the deadly gas.

Critics of the Chemical Weapons Convention claim it is doomed to failure because rogue states such as Libya, North Korea and Iraq remain outside the agreement. In force only since April 1997, the CWC has been ratified so far by 120 nations.

The history of previous attempts to control toxic chemicals is chequered. As early as 1675, a Franco-German agreement signed in Strasbourg banned the use of poisoned bullets. The Hague Convention of 1899 pledged signatory states would abstain from using weapons to spread "asphyxiating or deleterious gases". But it did not prevent the horrors of Passchendaele.

Britain, which has ratified the CWC, destroyed its chemical weapon arsenals in the 1950s. In deference to the OPCW's far-reaching powers of inspection, the Department of Trade and Industry describes the convention as the "most intrusive arms control treaty ever agreed". Under its terms, the massive stockpiles of chemical weapons held by the Americans, Russians and other signatories will have to be destroyed by the year 2007.

As for the Al Shifa plant, Sudan — which has not ratified the CWC — insists the factory was manufacturing only medicines and chemicals for civilian use. The US State department, which claims it first spotted unusually heavy security around the plant in 1996, doubts whether the soil samples will be made available for for outside analysis.

A recent article in the New Yorker by the Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Seymour Hersh suggested that President Clinton had sanctioned the attack on "gossamer-thin" evidence. One congressman who received a CIA briefing after the raid, later declared: "They came up with a lot of suspicious activity but nothing conclusive".

A former US attorney general, Ramsey Clark, who went on a fact-finding mission to the factory in September, returned highly sceptical. "It is absolutely absurd to believe that they scooped up some dirt and found nerve gas on the outside of the plant," Clark said.

Alistair Hay, a reader in chemical pathology at Leeds University and chemical weapons expert, does not believe that the US evidence produced so far constitutes proof. "(EMPTA) is not the most specific breakdown product or precursor that would allow you to say that this was definitely VX," he says. "It's extremely open. It's not my view that you should send in cruise missiles on the basis of evidence that is questioned."

Nerve gas how it works

Normal reaction
1 Nerve cell secretes acetylcholine which binds with muscle-cell receptors, contracting muscle fibres
2 Acetylcholinesterase (enzyme) released by nerve cell, breaks-down the acetylcholine, causing muscle fibres to relax

In presence of nerve agent
Nerve agent blocks action of acetylcholinesterase. Muscle fibres remain in constant spasm producing cramps/ suffocation



Category 2
Three toxic chemicals
Numerous precursors to nerve agents, mustard gas, lewisites and BZ
Amiton: organophosphorous insecticide considered too toxic for agricultural use
PFIB: gas by-product of Teflon. Inhalation of large dose is fatal
BZ: biochemical tool. Weaponised as an incapacitating agent

Category 3
Four toxic chemicals
Seven nerve agent precursors
Six mustard agent precursors
Cyanogen chloride and Hydrogen cyanide: used as pesticides. Both act by blocking cell respiration. Forms of hydrogen cyanide were used in Nazis gas chambers and by Iraq against the Kurds
Chloropicrin: Grain disinfectant and soil-steriliant which is a severe irritant and lacrymator (induces tear flow)

Sources: (1) Science policy research unit, Sussex University; (2) Chemical Disarmament: basic facts, OPCW.
Graphics sources: Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; the Chemical Industries Association; The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.
Graphics: Paddy Allen, Stefan Bayley.
Research: Matthew Keating.
Owen Bowcott is our assistant foreign news editor.

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A boost to the NHS and help for the disabled and elderly should please Old and New Labour



An injection of cash will protect the very young and the elderly, both areas of traditional Labour concern

PHOTOGRAPH: GARY CALTON

Hope in the heartland

Seumas Milne

LABOUR yesterday offered its traditional supporters hope that their priorities are being addressed, with an emergency injection of an extra £250 million into the National Health Service and an enhanced minimum income guarantee for low-paid families.

Building on the groundwork laid in his March Budget, the Chancellor also announced a new disabled person's tax credit to help ensure work pays for those able to take a job, an extension of the childcare tax credit to cover children up to 14 and a boost of nearly 6 per cent in the new guaranteed minimum family income.

The £250 million winter cash increase for the NHS — which comes on top of the programme of increases announced in the March budget — is to be spent in the next five months.

Low-paid families will be guaranteed a minimum income of £190 a week from next October, as a result of the joint impact of the national minimum wage and working families tax credit, with no income tax to pay on earnings below £220 a week.

Revealing the combined effect of policies aimed at making work pay more than benefits, Mr Brown declared that by this time next year, a single parent with one child would have a minimum income of at least £5.50 an hour, while a single adult with two children would be guaranteed £6.37 an hour. Those are well above the £3.60 adult minimum wage — due to become law next April — which will benefit 1.9 million workers, 1.3 million of them women.

The combination of the new statutory minimum hourly pay rate and Mr Brown's working families' tax credit will create a floor under family incomes of £180 a week from next April, announced in the Budget last March. The new £190 income guarantee, to be implemented six months later, represents an increase of nearly 6 per cent.

Pensioner couples will also have a guaranteed minimum income of £117 from next April and Mr Brown promised yesterday that in his forthcoming Budget he will set a new level below which they, like families with children, will pay no income tax.

As a result of the cut in VAT on fuel, tougher regulation and the Government's winter fuel payments, Mr Brown said that pensioners are now saving an average of £108 a year on fuel bills, with the poorest pensioners saving £140.

The Chancellor also announced that a new disabled person's tax credit would ensure that a disabled man or woman, with one child, who moves from benefits to employment would be guaranteed a minimum income of £220 a week, with no income tax payable on earnings below £274.

That would, he promised, mean some disabled people would be up to £78 a week better-off.

There was a mixed reaction last night from health unions to Mr Brown's announcement of new money for the NHS this winter. Bob Abberley, of the public service union Unison, said the extra cash showed the Government was listening and would "alleviate real suffering on the wards".

But the Royal College of Nursing said that what was really needed was extra nurses to cope with the extra patients expected over the next few months.

Policemen like to take a 'sickie'

Dan Atkinson

THE Chancellor's public-sector productivity drive will have to start not with idling dustmen or lethargic roadsweepers but *with the boys in blue*. A Cabinet Office report has put the police and prison service at the top of the "sickie" league.

On average, public-sector workers suffer from more delicate health than their counterparts in private industry, with sick leave running about a third higher. State employees rack up about 10 days "on the sick" each year, private employees about seven.

But there are big differences among the various branches of public service. Way out ahead are police officers and prison warders, with an average of 12 sick days a year. In the worst-affected forces, the figure is as high as 18 days.

Next come NHS employees, with 9.9 days, and council staffs, with 9.2.

The health of civil servants (the men and women from the ministries) collapses for, on average, a relatively-modest eight days a year.

The figures came from a Cabinet Office report in the summer, part of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review.

The Confederation of British Industry churned out its own report in September, putting an £11 billion total price tag on "sickies", public and private. It is thought the public sector accounts for about £6 billion of this.

Keeping the private sector's end up in the bunking-off league were manufacturing, the media, hotels and restaurants, where absenteeism is rife, according to the CBI. Leading the charge for productivity and competitiveness were professional services, retailing and hi-tech industries, where absenteeism is generally low.

Positively Japanese in comparison to the rest of the country were white-collar workers in the East Midlands, sick for just 4.6 days a year, the CBI said. More traditionally British were manual workers in Greater London and the North-west, whose sickness approached police levels, with 13 and 13.6 days' absence a year respectively.

Among the gems in the Cabinet Office report was the appalling sickness record of the Occupational Health and Safety Agency, whose absence levels ran at about double those of the private sector. This put the agency number two in the public-sector absence table, behind the War Pensions Agency, which racked up a truly impressive average of 17.63 days' sickness.

The Cabinet Office itself boasts an average of just 6.4 sick days a year.

Defence rests its case

Notebook



Alex Brummer

CHANCELLOR Gordon Brown's hyperactivity of recent days has been something to behold. We have seen Gordon, the leader of the free-world, as the G7 has sought to put the brakes on global crisis and Gordon, the European, as he has set business the challenge for being euro ready.

And now as the Longbridge plant of Rover has the sword of Damocles perched above it, as the Siemens plants in the North-east look for a new owner and those in employment start to wonder how long it will last, we have Gordon the optimist.

Yes, his second pre-Budget report does recognise, more than any government document so far, that global conditions have "deteriorated" in the period since his March Budget. Yet despite his visits to the Far East, his experience of the panic stations in Washington at the IMF meeting and his knowledge of the instability in the global banking system, he remains convinced that Britain, somehow, can avoid disaster.

The core of his argument is the mantra of long-term stability, endlessly repeated. Rather than concede any ground at all to the Opposition, which may have got under the Chancellor's skin with its bellowing about black holes in the Budget, Mr Brown was determined to deliver the case for the defence.

Because the Government took the hard decisions in its first two years in office, throttling down on expenditure and restoring the tax base — creating a £28 billion turnabout in the public finances — it can plough ahead with its public spending plans as announced in July. Better than that, he can throw £250 million at hospital wards this winter and pursue the redistribution agenda.

Certainly, there is nothing in the public finances section of the Chancellor's report to panic the City. Over this cycle the Government's finances will barely dip into the negative column with the public sector net cash requirement — the amount the Government needs to raise on capital markets — just £2.8 billion in deficit next year (1998-99) before it recovers to balance in 1999-2000. This, together with Mr Brown's prediction that there would be no deviation from the central target of 2.5 per cent for inflation over the coming years, put some bounce in gilt prices.

The flaw in all of this is the central economic forecasts. One does not want to sound like Francis Maude on a bad day, but there is little doubt that the Treasury's gloss on the UK's growth prospects of 1 to 1.5 per cent output expansion next year and 2.25 to 2.75 per cent in 2000, does stretch credibility.

It is based largely on the assumption that, although Britain has taken its hits from relatively high real interest rates, the strong pound, weakening international markets and tight fiscal policy, the worst could be over. That is certainly the case for interest and for fiscal policy, which is to be loosened so as to pump funds into infrastructure, health and education in the years up to the next election.

THE big uncertainties are international, as Mr Brown knows having contrived to calm the situation down. But the G7 has been behind the curve on all of this. The European economies, which appeared to be following a counter-cyclical path, are starting to suffer.

Confidence in the US is fading fast in the face of a ballooning current account deficit, uncertainty on Wall Street and an investment banking system, which seems to have learnt nothing from past mistakes.

Moreover, even as South Korea shows signs of recovery, others, like Malaysia, are looking weaker. And Latin America is on a knife-edge as the G7 waits on Brazil, the world's ninth-largest economy. Add the possibility of further corrections in equity markets, after the recent "fools" rally and growth forecasts look less secure.

If the growth projections should prove askew then predicting what will happen to the public finances becomes a nightmare as Mr Brown's two Tory predecessors can tell him. However much stress testing is done, the public finances always deteriorate more sharply than anticipated during a slowdown.

Where the City may be nervous is on the Government's creeping interest in what goes on in the equity markets. Although there was only one tangible proposal in his budget speech in this area — the stakeholding incentive to workers in quoted companies — the pre-Budget report does make some radical suggestion for shaking up the performance of share markets.

It would clearly like to sweep away the veil of secrecy that surrounds the behaviour of pension funds, as part of the broader move to transparency and accountability in the financial system.

Among other things, it wants to see pension funds exercise their rights to vote more actively, to set out their objectives more clearly and in particular to explain attitudes towards venture capital. More disclosure of the remuneration of fund managers will also be required.

This is a radical reforming agenda which could signal a cultural change in a rather complacent fund management industry. But it is one they might not welcome at a moment when, as Mr Brown has discovered, steering through the uncertainty has to be the main preoccupation.

Sketch

Clash of the Titanics



Simon Hoggart

THE Chancellor yesterday brought to the House what he called his pre-Budget report. In the past, we had budgets roughly every 12 months. Now we can have them all the year round, like Cadbury's creme eggs.

The Tories had billed the session in advance as their greatest onslaught upon the Labour Government. Groggy, bleeding ministers would reel around the ring, brains cast loose inside their skulls, pleading with the ref to stop the fight.

Unfortunately, they gave the job to the Shadow Chancellor. "Mad Frankie" Maude would like to make the teeth rattle in your head. Instead he creates the impression of a peevish hamster.

As usual, he began at a pitch of hysteria and proceeded to get more excited.

The Chancellor was guilty of "fantasy forecasting" and "Peter Pan economics" (why does the resourceful Peter Pan get such a lot of verbal from politicians? Would they prefer Captain Hook economics?) He talked angrily about "fairy tale figures". Someone should tell him that fury looks feebler than scorn.

As the Chancellor gazed back at him with amiable condescension, Mr Maude brought himself to new heights of frenzy. "He sits there! Grinning! And smiling! It is disgusting complacency!

"We *welcome* Labour trying to match our record!" he continued, a big mistake since it gave Labour MPs the chance *to release all their pent-up* boos and scornful laughter.

And then, finally, he produced the inevitable Titanic metaphor. "They are just moving the deckchairs on the Titanic! There is a £40 billion hole below the waterline of British business!

"They are painting nude portraits in the staterooms of industry while the ship of *state sails inexorably towards* the iceberg of the Chancellor's arrogance and indifference, and soon the economic revival will be just a stream of bubbles under the icy depths of the Atlantic as the prime minister, played by Kate Winslet in a fetching and surprisingly undamaged dress, struggles, weeping, to pull it to the surface."

(I made up the last paragraph, but purely to help Mr Maude. If we must have Titanic metaphors, can't we have some new ones?)

He sat down to jeers from Labour, a self-regarding little smile from the Chancellor, and a sense of vague embarrassment from his colleagues.

(The biggest Tory cheers came whenever any remotely credible body was quoted as forecasting a recession. I was reminded of a Bill Tidy cartoon in which two polar bears turn up at the White Star line offices, asking: "What news of the iceberg?")

The trouble is, he was right. Like the Titanic, Mr Brown is steering a very stable course, quite possibly straight at the iceberg. Indeed, he used the phrase "steering a stable course" five times during his statement, plus the words "stable" or "stability" on their own another eight.

(Poor old "Prudence", of whom he used to speak constantly, was mentioned only seven times. I do hope she can take the hint.)

There is something anally retentive about a Brown speech. The phrases — "a government that is steering a stable course, prudently investing in our future" — are repeated almost obsessively, as if the more he says it, the more he makes it so.

As I listened, I had a vision of young Gordon, aged eight, emptying his piggy bank and counting the coins time and again, just to make sure they were all still there. But behind the terminology, there was little that was either prudent or stable in the speech. The whole thing depends on the optimistic growth forecasts, which few but the Chancellor believe.

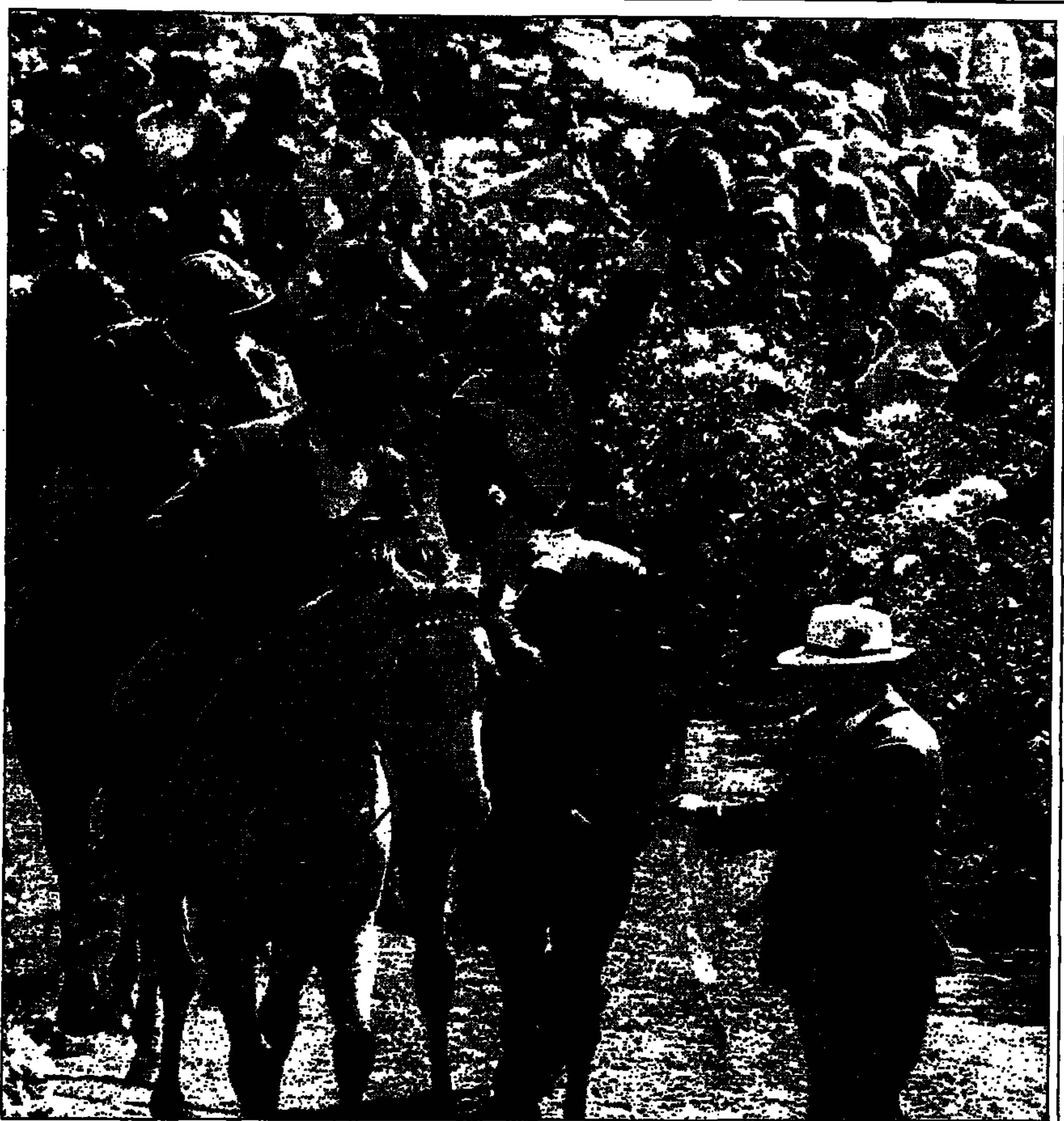
He is like the lottery winner who, told that, regrettably, the last number was 23 not 28, decides to go out and buy the S-reg Merc anyway.

هكذا من الأصل

Racing

Punch fails to land winning blow

New Zealand top Down Under with 1–2 in the Cup. Ken Oliver reports



Cheer leader . . . Chris Munce acknowledges the reception from the 100,000 crowd at Flemington after winning the Melbourne Cup on the favourite Jezabeel PHOTOGRAPH: WILL BURGESS/REUTERS

AUSTRALIAN fears that the Melbourne Cup was destined for export were confirmed yesterday, but it was New Zealand rather than the British who won — courtesy of dramatic raceday gamble, Jezabeel.

Godolphin's long-time race favourite Faithful Son, deposed on the day as market leader by the winner, somewhat predictably failed to stay the two-mile trip, trailing home seventh.

Persian Punch led home our five-runner challenge, finishing a gallant third, with Taufan's Melody fourth, Yorkshire fifth and Sheer Danzig 12th.

As the 24-runner field rounded the final bend it looked as though the leader Persian Punch would see off his rivals, but David Elsworth's five-year-old, despite running on gamely, was beaten a neck and half a length by Jezabeel and Champagne, who is also trained in New Zealand.

It was the best-ever performance by a British-trained horse, beating last year's fourth by Harbour Dues, and he will be back to try and better that effort next year.

"I'll be back — I want to win the bloody thing," said owner Jeff Smith. "There's no question this is a horse capable of winning the Melbourne Cup."

Persian Punch's performance left Smith wondering what might have been had the gelding not had his preparation interrupted by a skin virus before setting off for Australia.

"What we tried to do was to come over for the Caulfield Cup, but he got a bout of ringworm," said Smith. "If he'd had those extra three weeks and a run he would have been that much sharper."

David Elsworth, the horse's trainer, added: "He had to go round the field because of the draw, but he got there and they did him for speed. I guess he needed another furlong." Taufan's Melody, who caused such a stir when winning the Caulfield Cup at 66–1, ran a tremendous race to be fourth after being given far too much to do by his rider, Patrick Payne.

Lady Herries, who also saddled last year's fourth Harbour Dues, said: "I didn't think he would get so close because he was too far back on the far side."

Yorkshire's fifth delighted trainer Paul Cole. His charge had created a furore before the race after being given special permission to take part by the Victoria Racing Club denying a run to a local horse.

"I've brought my horse in good faith and I'm glad it worked out," said Cole. "I would have liked to have been in the frame, but we got quite close."

Sadly, Singaporean challenger Three Crowns, who led the field in the early stages, broke a leg and was put down.

Large Action, Oliver Sherwood's top-class hurdler, has injured a leg and will not race again.

Sherwood said: "He has injured a splint bone and we have decided to call it a day. He was a cracking good horse."

● IBAS, the new arbitration service to settle disputes between punters and bookmakers, has named the seven who will be on the panel. It includes Christopher Poole, retired racing correspondent of the Evening Standard.

Rugby Union

Rodber sees way back through lock

Robert Armstrong reports on a back-row man's forward move for England purposes

TIM RODBER's decision to switch from No. 8 to the second row in an attempt to win back his England place was given the thumbs up by both Clive Woodward and Martin Johnson after yesterday's squad session at Roehampton.

The England coach welcomed the extra option while Johnson, Rodber's Lions skipper, said the Northampton forward was already up to speed as a potential Test lock.

Rodber, who won the first of his 32 caps nearly seven years ago, has not played for England since the 1997 Lions tour to South Africa partly due to injuries, partly because Woodward has preferred Tony Diprose or Richard Hill at No. 8. However, the coach believes the increasing need for locks who are "genuine footballers" could work in favour of Rodber's role change.

Rodber, who has occasionally played in the Northampton second row, was regarded by the Lions coach Ian McGeechan in 1997 as a replacement lock though he was not asked to play there. His appearances this season have been restricted by a damaged hamstring, the same injury that kept him on the sidelines last year when he also suffered concussion and a knee-cartilage injury.

His main England rivals will be Garath Archer, Danny Grewcock and Johnson, whose form with Leicester virtually guarantees his place in next week's World Cup qualifier against Holland.

"It should be easy for Tim to switch because nowadays second-row forwards are expected to offer a great deal more, which he is certainly equipped to do," said Johnson. "He will have no trouble managing the tight work."

In other areas too, adaptability has become a key factor, Woodward suggested. Mike Catt, in his view, has sufficient versatility to perform as an international centre as an alternative to his customary fly-half role. The England coach acknowledged that Catt and Paul Grayson, no longer Northampton's first-choice No. 10, could be united for the Holland game.

● The Saracens forward Paddy Johns will captain Ireland in this month's World Cup qualifying matches against Romania and Georgia, replacing the Lions hooker Keith Wood, who has been left out of the squad after a contractual dispute.

IRELAND SQUAD: Backs: O'Shea (L Irish), Dempsey (Terenure Coll), Bishop (L Irish), Maggs (Bath), O'Mahony (Bedford), Henderson (Wasps), Bell (Dungannon), Dalgas, Elwood (both Galwegians), Humphries (Dungannon), McGuinness (St Mary's Coll), Scully (UCD). Forwards: Wallace (Saracens), Clohessy (Young Munster), Fitzpatrick (Dungannon), Mesdale (Newcastle), Clarke (Dungannon), Johns (Saracens, capt), O'Kelly (L Irish), Galwey (Shannon), Davidson (Castres), Costello (St Mary's Coll), Miller (Terenure Coll), Ward (Ballynahinch), O'Cuinneagain (Sale), Quinlan (Shannon).

Henry calls for rule change as Quinnell is suspended

Paul Rees

THE Wales coach Graham Henry has called for football's disciplinary model to be employed after Scott Quinnell, his No. 8, was ruled out of next week's international against South Africa because of a 14-day ban imposed after he was sent off in an English club match.

Quinnell saw red playing for Richmond against Wasps last month after being adjudged to have late-tackled Lawrence Dallaglio. He was suspended by a Rugby Football Union disciplinary panel, though Richmond are considering an appeal.

"I think there should be different disciplinary systems for international and club rugby," said Henry. "In soccer, if you are sent off playing for your club, it does not affect your international availability and vice versa.

"I was surprised Scott was banned because, having watched the incident several times on video, I am not convinced the offence was worth anything more than a penalty. The ban means I am without a player for something he did in a club game."

Wales were yesterday checking the rules to see whether Quinnell would be available to resume playing pending an appeal. The RFU by-laws stipulate that a ban stands until it is overturned but the International Rugby Board rules say otherwise.

● The Sale team manager Adrian Hadley, who won 27 caps for Wales, has announced his retirement as a player.

Carling denies story of playing return in France

WILL CARLING last night denied reports that he was trying to make his playing comeback in France.

Earlier Alban Moga, the president of Bègles-Bordeaux, said he had been contacted by an agent claiming to represent the former England captain.

"Carling, through his agent, expressed his interest to resurrect his playing career," said Moga. "The agent said Will was very keen to make a comeback in France. Unfortunately we did not pursue the offer."

Last night Carling's agent Jon Holmes denied the story and the player said: "It's untrue. It's the first I've heard of it."

Musselburgh Jackpot card with form guide

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
1.05	Love Academy	Suez Tornado (nap)
1.35	Single Shot	Single Shot
2.05	Ramson Nadinem	Son Of Sharge
2.40	Ladycake	Ladycake
3.10	Silent Warning	Mondragon
3.40	Flower O'Cannie (nap)	Flower O'Cannie
4.10	Wilton	Wilton

Right-handed, oval track of almost 1¼m with sharp turns and 4f run-in. Straight 5f.
Going: Soft, heavy in places. ★ Denotes blinkers. ● Top form rating.
Draw: High numbers favoured in sprints.
Seven day winners: 3.40 Flower O'Cannie.
Blinkered first time: 2.40 Fourth Time Lucky; 2.40 Clocla. Visored: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J, Jumps.

1.05 LADBROKE ON-COURSE HANDICAP (Div I) 1m £3,656 (13 declared)

[illegible]

Betting: 7-2 Suez Tornado, 4-1 Jona Holley, 5-1 Dancing Wolf, 13-2 Jacmar, Love Academy, Proteras Bay, 8-1 Pommer, Westbridge Lad.

FORM GUIDE – [illegible]

1.35 MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES 2YO 7f 30yds £3,149 (5 declared)

[illegible]

Betting: 8-13 Single Shot, 13-8 Evasive Step, 8-1 Hayetacle.

FORM GUIDE – [illegible]

2.05 E.B.F. MAIDEN STAKES 2YO 1m £3,513 (9 declared)

[illegible]

FORM GUIDE – [illegible]

2.40 NORTH BERWICK SELLING NURSERY HANDICAP 2YO 6f £2,746 (9 declared)

[illegible]

FORM GUIDE – [illegible]

3.10 LADBROKE MUSSELBURGH NOVEMBER HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE) 2m £7,522 (16 declared)

[illegible]

● C (Coral), H (Hill's), L (Ladbrokes), T (Tote).

FORM GUIDE – [illegible]

3.40 MUSSELBURGH JOINT RACE COMMITTEE HANDICAP 1m 4f £3,844 (16 declared)

[illegible]

FORM GUIDE – [illegible]

4.10 LADBROKE ON-COURSE HANDICAP (Div 2) 1m £3,656 (12 declared)

[illegible]

Newton Abbot (N.H.)

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
1.20	Glowing Path	Advance East
1.50	Hello Me Man	Hello Me Man
2.20	Dom Beltrano	Dom Beltrano
2.50	Earthmover	Earthmover
3.20	Ten Of Diamonds	Ten Of Diamonds
3.55	Mr Mccarney	Gillan Cove
4.25	Ballynabragget	

Tight, left-handed circuit of 1¼m; run-in 300yds, but can be considerably shorter on hurdles course
Going: Soft. ★ Denotes blinkers. ● Top form rating.
Seven day winners: 1.20 Glowing Path.
Blinkered first time or visored: None
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F, Flat.

1.20 WEST COUNTRY RACING AT ITS BEST HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 1f £2,684 (6 declared)

1 113 Davoski (23) (D) (BF) Miss V Williams 4-12-0 — S Kelly (5) 86
2 356-2 Advance East (12) C Popham 6-11-6 — O McPhail (5) ●90
3 305111 Glowing Path (1) (7lb ex) (CD) R Hodges 8-11-9 — J Harris (5) 87
4 30-320 Dragon King (10) (D) (BF) C Barwell 6-10-10 — B Fenton 86
5 06213- Blue Blazer (194) (C) (BF) R Frost 8-10-10 — J Frost 87
6 3435-3 Just Jasmine (28) K Bishop 6-10-7 — R Greene 89

Betting: 2-1 Glowing Path, 5-2 Davoski, 9-2 Advance East, 6-1 Dragon King, 13-2 Blue Blazer, 8-1 Just Jasmine.

1.50 WILLIAM HILL FESTIVAL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE 2m 110yds £4,492 (7 declared)

1 31406- Blade Of Fortune (175) (CD) V Greenway 10-11-10 — Mr S Stronge (7) —
2 132-5 Hello Me Man (11) (D) B Llewellyn 10-11-2 — B Fenton ●90
3 2P234' Little Shefford (656) (D) M Muggeridge 6-11-2 — P Holley —
4 64/P-4 Scarlet Rambler (15) R Frost 9-11-0 — T O'Connor (7) —
5 PP3/4- Another Hubblick (615) R Baker 7-10-13 — V Slattery —
6 4/4-45 Killone River (13) R Alner 6-10-11 — R Widger (7) 89
7 P3P/P- Strong Glen (244) P Wegmann 10-10-0 — D Matthews —

Betting: 2-1 Hello Me Man, 3-1 Killone River, 7-2 Another Hubblick, 5-1 Blade Of Fortune, 13-2 Scarlet Rambler, 8-1 Little Shefford, 50-1 Strong Glen.

2.20 SPA-TRANS HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 6f £6,308 (4 declared)

1 D/131- Dom Beltrano (270) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-10 — C Llewellyn ●90
2 C2/24- Boldinclose (202) (CD) R Frost 8-11-2 — J Frost 89
3 P1/3F/1 Atavistic (28) (D) P Hobbs 6-10-0 — R Widger (7) 88
4 0625P- Top Skipper (204) V Greenway 6-10-0 — Mr S Stronge (7) 82

Betting: 4-7 Dom Beltrano, 7-2 Atavistic, 4-1 Boldinclose, 20-1 Top Skipper.

2.50 POT BLACK (UK) LTD HANDICAP CHASE 3m 2f 110yds £6,944 (3 declared)

1 7111- Earthmover (230) (D) P Nicholls 7-11-10 — J Tizzard (3) ●90
2 22113- Rectory Garden (244) (D) (BF) H Daly 9-10-2 — R Johnson 87
3 14123- Freddie Muck (182) (D) (BF) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-0 — C Llewellyn 86

Betting: 5-13 Earthmover, 5-2 Freddie Muck, 7-2 Rectory Garden.

3.20 ROGERS OF PLYMOUTH AMATEUR RIDERS NOVICE HURDLE 3m 3f £2,697 (9 declared)

1 /3P2- Ah Shush (214) Dr P Pritchard 10-10-10 — Dr P Pritchard (7) —
2 4444/- Bearys Cross (213) P Nicholls 6-10-10 — Mr J Young (7) —
3 0P/3PP Fadi (8) Graham Richards 7-10-10 — Mr C Rae (5) 84
4 C521-2 Grand Canyon (26) P Eccles 5-10-10 — Mr S Stronge (7) 87
5 323/436 More Bills (25) B Llewellyn 6-10-10 — Mr S Blackwell (7) 86
6 PU-22 Ten Of Diamonds (15) P Hobbs 5-10-10 — Mr P Flynn (7) ●90
7 0C3-4 The Croppy Boy (43) J Neville 5-10-10 — Mr R Fenton (7) 84
8 326-0 Young Thruster (18) N Twiston Davies 5-10-10 — Mr T Scudamore (7) 87
9 43/43P Manor Bound (10) Mrs S Williams 8-10-5 — Mr A Holdsworth (7) —

Betting: 13-8 Ten Of Diamonds, 7-2 Grand Canyon, 9-2 Bearys Cross, 5-1 Young Thruster, 8-1 More Bills, 16-1 Ah Shush, 20-1 The Croppy Boy

3.55 GEOFFREY BOND NOVICE CHASE 2m 2f 110yds £5,472 (7 declared)

1 3321- Gillan Cove (184) (D) R Alner 9-11-5 — R Widger (7) ●90
2 300 5F Spring Marathon (28) (CD) Mrs P Dutfield 8-11-5 — P Holley 88
3 PP11- Mr Mccarney (199) P Nicholls 6-11-0 — J Tizzard (3) —
4 P3/P2P Opera Festival (37) R Baker 8-11-0 — V Slattery 86
5 1S/U- Parade Racer (292) P Murphy 7-11-0 — R Farrant —
6 2-12 Ross Quay (18) (BF) P Hobbs 8-11-0 — G Tormey —
7 4557/- Bally Lira (224) (D) P Rodford 6-10-9 — S Burrough —

Betting: 6-4 Gillan Cove, 11-4 Spring Marathon, 9-2 Ross Quay, 13-2 Mr Mccarney, 10-1 Opera Festival, Bally Lira, 33-1 Parade Racer

4.25 WEST COUNTRY FESTIVAL STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT 2m 1f £1,956 (10 declared)

1 1 Mr Perfecta (121) (CD) R Frost 5-11-11 — J Frost
2 Ballynabragget N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4 — C Llewellyn
3 Blackoid M Pipe 4-11-4 — C Maude
4 4-2 Blackwater Brave (13) (BF) P Nicholls 5-11-4 — J Tizzard (3)
5 C Chantry Buzzard (70) C Jones 4-11-4 — B Fenton
6 Fu's Baby M Pipe 4-11-4 — R Johnson
7 3- Lucius Aurelius (179) O Sherwood 5-11-4 — J Osborne
8 5 Picea's Past (46) J Neville 4-11-4 — Mr R Fenton (7)
9 Riverlord G Ham 4-11-4 — S Burrough
10 1522- Glacial Missile (180) (BF) P Bowen 5-10-13 — W Marston

Betting: 3-1 Blackwater Brave, Glacial Missile, 4-1 Mr Perfecta, 9-2 Ballynabragget, 5-1 Blackoid, 7-1 Fu's Baby, 16-1 Lucius Aurelius.

● Istabraq looked every inch a champion as he repeated last year's victory in the John James McManus Memorial Hurdle at Cork yesterday. On his toes in the preliminaries, the 2-7 chance, ridden by Charlie Swan, cruised to the front two out to score by four lengths from Master Beveled.
● Yesterday's meeting at Catterick was called off because of waterlogging.

Kempton (N.H.)

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
1.25	Mukdar	Punkah
1.55	Supreme Charm	—
2.30	Coh Sho No	Coh Sho No
3.00	Stanmore	Stanmore (nb)
3.35	Kingdom Of Shades (nb)	Executive King
4.05	Sulawesi	Sulawesi

Flat, rather sharp, right-handed track of 1m5f with 175yds run-in.
Going: Soft, good to soft in places. ★ Denotes blinkers. ● Top form rating.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time or visored: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F, Flat.

1.25 BONFIRE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE 2m £2,264 (9 declared)

1 31142U Mukdar (12) (D) K Bailey 4-11-11 — R Wakley 89
2 4552-0 Red Guard (16) J Gifford 4-11-4 — L Aspell 88
3 0013-5 Fort Knox (7) R Flower 7-11-2 — J K McCarthy (5) 88
4 -45P04 Punkah (8) (D) G McCourt 5-11-1 — R Hobson (5) ●90
5 11124- Specialize (158) (D) (BF) K Burke 6-10-11 — M Griffiths ★ 87
6 1122-3 Storm Tiger (18) (D) S Mellor 7-10-9 — E Husband 87
7 300P5- Blaze Of Song (186) D Wintle 6-10-3 — J Mogford (5) 89
8 41656- Derisbay (184) J Bridger 10-10-3 — L Cummins ★ 85
9 /3314- Captain Marmalade (382) (D) D Thom 9-10-0 — R Massey —

Betting: 3-1 Specialize, 7-2 Mukdar, 5-1 Red Guard, 6-1 Storm Tiger, 7-1 Fort Knox, 8-1 Blaze Of Song, 12-1 Punkah, 14-1 Others

1.55 GUNPOWDER PLOT NOVICE CHASE 2m 4f 110yds £3,420 (6 declared)

1 153- Kentish Bard (189) N Gaselee 6-11-0 — J R Kavanagh —
2 3/P- Knockaneard (348) Mrs L Taylor 6-11-0 — R Bellamy —
3 4 Melomania (31) P Howling 6-11-0 — B Powell —
4 /0363- Over The Water (180) R Alner 6-11-0 — A Thornton —
5 11121- Supreme Charm (186) (D) K Bailey 6-11-0 — N Williamson —
6 01004- Cipriani Queen (186) J Gifford 8-10-9 — P Hide —

Betting: 2-5 Supreme Charm, 6-1 Cipriani Queen, 8-1 Kentish Bard, 14-1 Over The Water, 16-1 Knockaneard, 25-1 Melomania.

2.30 BOOK NOW FOR BOXING DAY NOVICE HURDLE 2m 5f £2,814 (11 declared)

1 12 Coh Sho No (27) (D) S Dow 5-10-12 — R Dunwoody ●90
2 2/ Academy House (F505) (BF) T D Mccarthy 5-10-10 — A P McCoy —
3 413- Bellasrio (193) (BF) N Graham 4-10-10 — P Hide —
4 55 Galapiat Du Mesnil (54) N Henderson 4-10-10 — M A Fitzgerald —
5 BF1- Jim Jam Joey (193) D Grissell 5-10-10 — A Thornton —
6 Johnbarnar D Morris 6-10-10 — B Powell —
7 0/P0P- Micanjon (225) J Allen 7-10-10 — Gary Lyons —
8 00- Normanthestrawman (242) P Shakespeare 5-10-10 — L Harvey —
9 6/ Stile Me (813) G Hubbard 6-10-10 — R Thornton —
10 3-4 Strong Brew (18) K Bailey 6-10-10 — N Williamson 88
11 0P20-4 The Bizza (28) J Panvert 7-10-5 — J Goldstein (5) 84

Betting: 9-4 Coh Sho No, 11-4 Strong Brew, 9-2 Bellasrio, 8-1 Galapiat Du Mesnil, 10-1 Academy House, Jim Jam Joey, 14-1 The Bizza.

3.00 HUTHWAITE INTERNATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE 3m £4,046 (7 declared)

1 3413-5 Viceoa (31) (D) R Alner 9-12-0 — A Thornton —
2 F031-3 Stanmore (18) S Sherwood 6-12-0 — G Bradley ●90
3 153123 Clifton Set (18) (C) (D) C Mann 7-11-13 — R Dunwoody ★ 89
4 2109/F Hawaiian Sam (7) (D) K Burke 8-11-4 — N Williamson —
5 3302-3 Early Drinker (14) O Sherwood 10-11-3 — J A McCarthy 88
6 FF/1F- Sophie May (326) (D) (BF) D Morris 7-11-2 — B Powell ★ 87
7 30P1-P Another Deadly (7) (D) T Casey 11-10-9 — M Clarke 88

Betting: 9-4 Stanmore, 3-1 Clifton Set, 9-2 Viceoa, 5-1 Early Drinker, 8-1 Sophie May, 10-1 Another Deadly, 20-1 Hawaiian Sam.

3.35 JOHN BARRETT – 25 YEARS AT KEMPTON NOVICE CHASE 3m £3,388 (6 declared)

1 0234-1 Executive King (11) G Hubbard 7-11-6 — A P McCoy ●90
2 51P- Eichkan (231) M Bradstock 6-11-0 — G Bradley —
3 62320/ Kingdom Of Shades (880) Mrs V Williams 8-11-0 — R Dunwoody —
4 50- Oscar Wilde (242) R Alner 6-11-0 — A Thornton —
5 2P1-P Cross Rhodes (11) (D) D Gandolfo 5-10-12 — S Wynne —
6 1- Sir Samuel (197) (D) K Bailey 5-10-12 — N Williamson —

Betting: 4-7 Executive King, 9-2 Sir Samuel, 8-1 Eichkan, 10-1 Kingdom Of Shades, 12-1 Cross Rhodes, 25-1 Oscar Wilde.

4.05 GUY FAWKES HANDICAP HURDLE 3m 110yds £3,721 (6 declared)

1 211/61 Sulawesi (18) (C) N Twiston-Davies 5-12-0 — J Goldstein (5) ●90
2 22/1-1 Lord Khalice (11) (D) G Hubbard 7-11-4 — R Thornton 87
3 1550-1 Quistaquay (8) (5lb ex) J Mullins 6-11-4 — S Durack (3) 86
4 2200-U Be My Mot (7) D Grissell 6-11-0 — N Williamson 85
5 21-1F2 Aquavita (11) J S Moore 4-10-11 — J Magee 85
6 51541/ Honey Mount (578) (D) R Alner 7-10-7 — A Thornton —

Betting: 7-4 Sulawesi, 5-2 Lord Khalice, 4-1 Quistaquay, 6-1 Aquavita, 12-1 Be My Mot, 14-1 Honey Mount.

KEEPING TRACK
09064 700 +

	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
KEMPTON	141	151
NEWTON ABBOTT	142	152
MUSSELBURGH	143	153
ALL COURSES COMMENTARY	09064 700 140	
ALL COURSES RESULTS	09064 700 150	

[illegible]
The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Results

EXETER

[illegible]

WARWICK

[illegible]

MELBOURNE CUP

3m: 1, JEZABEEL, C Munce (6-1 fav); 2, Champagne (7-1); 3, Persian Punch (12-1); 4, Taufan's Melody (20-1). 24 ran. nk, ½, snk. (B Jenkins, NZ) Tote: £12.00; £4.00, £3.80, £5.20. DF: £55.20. SF: £143.40.

Football: Uefa Cup, second round, second leg

FC Zurich 4 Celtic 2 (aggregate 5–3)

Swiss roll all over Celtic in frantic second-half burst

Patrick Glenn in Zurich

CELTIC made their exit from this competition after a second half of high drama at the Letzigrund Stadium here last night.

The Parkhead side twice went two behind but managed to cut the deficit on each occasion with goals from Phil O'Donnell and Henrik Larsson. But they were eventually undone by a shortage of resources on an evening when six first-team regulars were missing and by their failure to finish the tie in the first leg.

The surface had been turned into a skid-pan by the rain which had fallen all day. But the pitch could not explain the miss by Frederic Chassot early in the match as Celtic's makeshift defence were bedding down.

Alan Stubbs had failed a pre-match fitness test and Stephane Mahe and David Hannah formed a new partnership in central defence. As they tried to forge an understanding, the home forwards gave them a searching examination.

They should have been punished when Mahe played the ball straight to Cesar Sant' Anna and the Brazilian's quick pass put Shaun Bartlett clear on the right. The South African striker centred to Chassot, who shot over an unprotected net from six yards.

Celtic had made a half-chance in the opening minutes but Franco Di Jorio intercepted as the Norwegian striker Harald Brattbakk closed on the ball with the Zurich goalkeeper Marco Pascolo advancing.

As Celtic began to find a rhythm, which was orchestrated by their captain Paul Lambert, the Swiss looked uncomfortable.

It was difficult not to suppose that players such as Craig Burley, Tom Boyd, Marc Rieper, absent through suspension and injury, as well as Stubbs would have helped confirm the impression formed during the first leg that Celtic were fundamentally stronger than their opponents.

But their failure to offer a persistent threat to Pascolo, who had to deal with only a weak header from Darren Jackson and a low 25-yard drive from Lambert, remained a concern.

However, nothing which had occurred during the first half could have prepared the crowd for the excitement of the first 15 minutes of the second.

In the 51st minute the ball popped out of a scrimmage following Sant' Anna's cross from the right and Giorgio Del Signore headed home. Within another five minutes the Swiss were two ahead when Chassot took a low cross from the right and turned brilliantly away from Hannah before chipping over Jonathan Gould.

The applause from that strike had hardly subsided when Celtic hit back. Larsson took possession on the right and delivered a perfect low cross for O'Donnell at the far post and the midfielder coolly swept home from six yards.

For a few moments it seemed that Zurich would panic. But the hopes of Celtic's supporters lasted only six minutes before Bartlett scored Zurich's third.

Andre Wiederkehr's long ball out of defence was missed by Jackie McNamara and the vast space behind him was exploited by Bartlett, who pulled the ball wide of Gould before clipping it into the net from just inside the box.

Larsson responded for Celtic in the 72nd minute with a fierce right-foot shot after Tosh McKinlay's deep cross from the left had been headed across the 18-yard line by Jackson.

But it took only another three minutes for the home side to restore their two-goal advantage when Sant' Anna's shot from the edge of the area took a wicked deflection past Stewart Kerr, who had replaced the injured Gould in the Celtic goal.

FC Zurich (4–4–2): Pascolo; Tarone, Hodel, Sant' Anna, Fischer; Di Jorio, Del Signore, Lima, Wiederkehr; Chassot, Bartlett.
Celtic (4–4–2) Gould; McNamara, Hannah, Mahe, McKinlay; Donnelly, Jackson, Lambert, O'Donnell; Brattbakk, Larsson.
Referee: L Sundell (Sweden).



On the pull . . . Eusebio Di Francesco, right, holds off Lee Bowyer during Roma's assured rearguard action at Elland Road last night DAN CHUNG

Champions League promise of free-to-all TV highlights

TELEVISED highlights of the revamped Champions League will be freely available across Europe, even in those countries where pay-tv channels have the main broadcasting rights.

This promise from Gerhard Aigner, Uefa's general secretary, was the only positive message to emerge from yesterday's meeting in Geneva between European football's governing body and the 12 leading clubs.

The spirit of cooperation was tested to the full as the two parties emerged less than united from discussions over the financial aspects of an expanded Champions League.

"I think at the moment that everyone is unhappy," said Liverpool's chief executive Rick Parry. "We discussed the format and I think we have decided to accept the proposal of 32 clubs. But how the money will be divided was probably the main topic of discussion and there's still some way to go."

Liverpool were joined at the talks by Manchester United, Ajax, Milan, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Borussia Dortmund, Internazionale, Juventus, Olympique Marseille, Porto and Real Madrid.

Uefa has been forced to propose a revamp of its European competitions to head off the threat of a Super League but Aigner admitted: "There was not a uniformity of view. The clubs want half the income to be distributed according to market value [the countries with big-money leagues] and half to be performance-related. We are never going to be able to satisfy everyone. The small clubs think they should have more — and so do the big clubs."

Aigner added that Uefa had identified 17 match dates but had yet to make a detailed investigation. "The fixture list is always a problem," he said, and added a veiled warning: "Each league must examine its own situation and help find a solution." Uefa has tried without success to persuade the English Premiership and Spain to reduce numbers from 20 to 18.

Aigner said Uefa was confident its running of European football would not fall foul of a European Commission investigation, sparked by the Super League organisers Media Partners.

Leeds United 0 AS Roma 0 (aggregate 0–1)

Limp Leeds say arrivederci

Michael Walker

DESPITE facing 10 men for the whole of the second half Leeds United were last night unable to match the intelligence or poise they displayed in Rome and ultimately Roma's passage into the last 16 was comfortable and deserved.

The red card shown to Roma's Cameroon defender Pierre Wome just before half-time should have given Leeds the momentum, mentally and physically, to pin the Italians back after a deflating first half, but David O'Leary's young side never came close to doing that and the new Leeds manager's pre-match assessment that his squad was too thin and too inexperienced to compete successfully at this level proved correct.

Lucas Radebe's knee injury and Bruno Ribeiro's suspension meant that O'Leary was always going to have to shuffle the side that had played in Rome. In came Ian Harte at left-back, Jonathan Woodgate at centre-half and Lee Sharpe started a match for only the third time this season.

But there was also good news on the injury front — Nigel Martyn was deemed sufficiently fit to play with the rib damage sustained in Rome and the Leeds keeper was quickly involved, saving a shot from Roma's scorer in the first match, Marco Delvecchio, in the sixth minute.

The effort was early reward for Roma's adventurous formation — they began with three forwards — but their defence, as it did in the first leg, looked exposed by this. Consequently David Hopkin was able to dribble through a soft-looking centre shortly after Delvecchio's chance and Roma were further stretched shortly after by Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's quick breakaway. When Hasselbaink centred from the right, unfortunately, Sharpe met it with his right foot and the result was predictably poor.

However, in an entertaining and rapidly-moving game, Leeds were unable to maintain any pressure, and before the half-hour Martyn had made three more important saves, one more from Delvecchio and others from the Brazilians Aldair and Paulo Sergio. Francesco Totti, Roma's captain and playmaker, was central to all of the Italians' progression and from one of his inswinging corners, Delvecchio hooked another shot that landed on the roof of the Leeds net with Martyn stranded.

But then, 60 seconds before the interval, came Wome's dismissal for a second foul on Bowyer. The decision was harsh, though so was Ribeiro's sending-off a fortnight ago.

This obliged the Italians to play with 10 men for 10 minutes longer than Leeds had had to, and their inevitable reorganisation saw the French international defender Vincent Candela replace the winger Sergio.

Yet aside from two pieces of individual invention by Hasselbaink it was difficult to discern any immediate superiority Leeds derived from their numerical advantage.

O'Leary's response was to replace the disappointing Sharpe with Clyde Wijnhard. Harry Kewell moving into Sharpe's left-wing position.

But there was to be no instant benefit from the change and by the time the constantly dangerous Delvecchio dragged an excellent diagonal drive narrowly wide 20 minutes from the end, Leeds had still not forced Chimenti back into the action.

Six minutes later, though, Hasselbaink at last created another opening. The Dutchman's pass found Bowyer in space and his cross was met by Wijnhard sliding in at the far post. The ball was goalbound until, comically, it hit Kewell. Sadly, Leeds did not see the funny side.

Leeds United (4–4–2): Martyn; Hiden, Woodgate, Molenaar, Harte; Bowyer, Hopkin, McPhail, Sharpe (Wijnhard, 60min), Hasselbaink, Kewell.
AS Roma (4–3–3): Chimenti; Aldair, Petruzzi, Zago, Wome, Tomasel, Tomic, Di Francesco, Sergio (Candela, 46min), Delvecchio, Totti (Calu, 86min).
Referee: B Heynemann (Ger)

Referee Poll admits error in not giving Newcastle penalty

Stephen Bradfield

THE referee Graham Poll has admitted he erred in not awarding Newcastle a penalty during the 3–0 defeat by West Ham at St James' Park on Saturday. Poll waved play on after Andy Impey brought down Paul Dalglish.

Philip Don, the Premier League referees' officer, said yesterday: "Graham popped in to see me and we had a look at the video. He accepts it was a penalty. His view was masked by a Newcastle player. This made it difficult to judge."

Don added: "Referees have *a job to do and do it to the best* of their ability. I don't think the constant stream of criticism is helping anyone."

Poll came under heavy fire from Newcastle for the penalty incident and sending off Stuart Pearce, who appeared to use his elbow in a challenge. They are appealing against his three-match ban.

Don defended the dismissal saying: "I support Graham on the sending-off. I don't think there is any argument at all on that."

Rangers have given Newcastle's French striker Stéphane Guivarc'h an ultimatum to join them after he rejected two previous approaches. They have re-opened talks with the player's advisers and their chairman David Murray said: "This is the last time we will go down this road."

Hull City's player-manager Mark Hateley has been given a guarantee of job security by *the club's new owners, Tom* Belton, the former Scunthorpe chairman who is part of the Sheffield-based consortium that bought Hull from David Lloyd, said: "Mark's position is secure for the moment. Everyone realises he hasn't had any money to spend."

First Division: Crewe Alexandra 1 Sunderland 4

Ball keeps rolling for Reid

Derek Potter

AFTER scoring three at Bolton on Sunday Sunderland enriched a formidable goal difference that may prove invaluable next May. The four goals they scored last night moved them further ahead of Birmingham City to extend the clubs' best start to a season.

Peter Reid's side, who have not lost in 16 league games, gave Crewe little hope of ending a sequence of 12 games *without a win, despite Colin* Little's 78th-minute reply.

It seemed an odd move when Dario Gradi, the Crewe coach noted for his tactical expertise, took Rodney Jack out of his three-man attack, introduced a midfield player in Kenny Lunt and switched from 5–3–3 to 5–3–2. By then Crewe were already a goal down. Yet five minutes after the switch they were unlucky not to equalise when a header by Mark Rivers bounced off the crossbar.

But by the 27th minute Crewe, who began the night 21 places below and 20 points adrift of Sunderland, had conceded a second goal.

Kevin Ball, the captain, is at the heart of so much Sunderland achieve these days and it was his link-up with Niall Quinn and deflected *shot that led to the* first goal by Daniele Dichio, his ninth of the season.

Then Ball sent Mike Gray sprinting into space to drive his second goal of the season past Jason Kearton from 20 yards.

While Sunderland have not lost since going down to Charlton in the play-offs last May, Crewe have not won since they beat Bradford City 2–1 at Gresty Road on August 28 and to be 3–0 down to Sunderland by half-time is not the best platform from which to add to their points tally. That third goal came courtesy of a Quinn backheader which floated over Kearton's head.

After Mike Bridges replaced Dichio, Gray was carried off injured during a determined comeback by Crewe, only for Bridges to score a spectacular fourth Sunderland goal.

Crewe Alexandra (5–2–3): Kearton; Bignot, Walton (Macaulay, 75), Lightfoot, Smith, Johnson; Wright, Charnock, Little, Jack, Rivers.
Sunderland (4–4–2): Sorensen; Makin, Melville, Butler, Gray (Scott, 84); Mullin, Ball, Williams, Johnston; Quinn, Dichio (Bridges, 80).
Referee: B Coddington (Sheffield).

Ipswich Town 2 Wolverhampton Wanderers 0

Burley's men march on

Trevor Haylett

IN EACH of the past two Novembers Ipswich have been looking anxiously on the relegation places but this time George Burley's team continued their forward march, a ninth victory of the season lifting them up to second in the First Division last night.

They scored early through James Scowcroft and while they conceded plenty of ground to Wolves they never looked in any great danger and added a second through Mick Stockwell in injury time.

What a stunning blow was the header scored by Norwich City's Craig Bellamy here two weeks ago, not only giving the Canaries victory in the East Anglian derby, but also proving to be the only goal conceded by Ipswich in the whole of October.

Burley continued with the Spaniard Manuel Thetis as a third centre back. With little freedom for Wolves' front men who included Guy Whittinghamthe visitors were unable to make much of their superior possession.

Ipswich's goal on 16 minutes came when Michael Gilkes was caught out by the flight of Matt Holland's cross, enabling Scowcroft to chest it down and score with a firm volley through the legs of Mike Stowell.

The Wolves midfield were always vulnerable to the counter-surges led by the influential Kleron Dyer, who was able to carry the ball deep into opposition territory. When Ipswich were themselves caught napping a touch more sharpness from Steve Sedgley would have brought him a satisfying goal against his former team.

It was a warning to Burley's side that they needed a second goal. It almost arrived when David Johnson and Scowcroft tried to take advantage of Kevin Muscat's error and should have done when Johnson peeled away from Keith Curle to reach an inswinging ball from Jamie Clapham only to plant his header onto the roof of the net.

Ipswich Town (5–3–2): Wright; Stockwell, Tarocco, Clapham, Mowbray, Thetis; Venus, Scowcroft (Naylor, 74min), Holland; Johnson, Dyer.
Wolves (5–3–2): Stowell; Muscat, Gilkes, Emblen, Sedgley, Curle; Corica, Robinson (Naylor, 61), Osborn, Connolly, Whitingham.
Referee: R Furnandiz (Doncaster)

A journey too far as Waddle parts company with Torquay

CHRIS WADDLE's seven-game spell with Torquay has come to an end because the former England winger found the journey too far from his Sheffield home to Devon.

The manager of the struggling Third Division club Wes Saunders, a friend of Waddle's when they were team-mates at Newcastle, said he was disappointed that he had not been able to persuade the 37-year-old player to continue his week-to-week contract.

"We would like to have made the deal a bit more concrete," Saunders said.

Waddle, two games short of 600 league appearances in a career including spells at Newcastle, Tottenham, Marseille and Sheffield Wednesday, failed to finish on the winning side at Torquay, drawing five and losing two.

Pierre van Hooijdonk's hopes of making his reappearance last night in a Nottingham Forest shirt were washed away when heavy rain forced the postponement of the reserves' match against Birmingham.

The Huddersfield Town winger Ben Thornley is facing a six-week absence after breaking a bone in his foot in Saturday's First Division game at Birmingham.

The Republic of Ireland's European Championship game with Yugoslavia will be on November 18 in Belgrade. *It* was postponed from October 10 because of the threat of military action in the Kosovo crisis.

● At least four people were killed and several injured when soldiers opened fire on the crowd during a game in the Congo capital Kinshasha. The game between Sportive Vita and Daring Club Motema Pembe was delayed eight minutes while fans fled and soldiers cleared out the wounded.

Results

Football

UEFA CUP

Second-round, second leg

Aston Villa (1) 1 — **Celta Vigo** (2) 3
Collymore 30 (pen)
29,910
(agg: 2–3)
Sanchez 26, Mostovoi 34, Penev 48

FC Zurich (0) 4 — **Celtic** (0) 2
Del Signore 51, Chassot 56, Bartlett 61, Santanna 75
Larsson 72
14,500
(agg: 5–3)

Leeds (0) 0 — **AS Roma** (0) 0
39,161
(agg: 0–1)

Bologna 2 Slavia Prague 0 (agg: 4–1); Bordeaux 2 Vitesse Arnhem 1 (3–1); Parma 2 Wisla Krakow 1 (3–2), Club Brugge 3 VfB Stuttgart 2 (aet; 4–3); Monaco 4 AK Graz 0 (7–3); Real Sociedad 3 Dynamo Moscow 0 (6–2), *Lyon 3 Crvena Zvezda Belgrade 2* (5–3)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

First Division

Crewe (0) 1 — **Sunderland** (3) 4
Little 78
5,301
Dichio 11, Gray 28, Quinn 45, Bridges 81

Ipswich (1) 2 — **Wolverhampton** (0) 0
Scowcroft 17, Stockwell 90
14,680

Watford (1) 1 — **Norwich** (1) 1
Jackson 8 (og)
10,611
Eadie 34

West Brom (1) 3 — **Crystal Palace** (1) 2
Hughes 1, 84, 90 (pen)
11,606
Jansen 30, Moore 87

Tatarkova (Ukr) 6–4, 4–6, 6–4; S Plischke (Aut) bt C Morariu (US) 6–2, 6–2; M Seles (Sp) bt R Grande (It) 6–2, 6–1; A–G Sidot (Fr) bt A Maurasmo (Fr) 6–3, 6–3; S Plukowski (Fr) bt B Ritzner (Ger) 6–3, 6–4; E Likhovtseva (Rus) bt S Appelmans (Bel) 6–1, 7–5

Chess

FONTYS TOURNAMENT (Tilburg, Neth): **Round Nine:** N Adams (Eng) 1 V Topalov (Bul) 0; L Van Wely (Ned) 0 J Piket (Neth) 1; V Korchnoi (Switz) 0 V Kramnik (Rus) 1. **Drawn:** P Leko (Hun) v J Lautier (Fr); V Zviaginsev (Rus) v V Anand (Ind), M Sadler (Eng) v P Svidler (Rus). **Leaders:** Anand 6½, Leko 5½; Adams, Piket, Sadler, Zviaginsev 5.
WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS (Oropesa del Mar, Sp): **Round Eight: England totals:** R Sheldon 7 (leeds World Girls U–18), N Pert 6; M Thiruchelvam, M Buckley, S Tidman 5; S Buckley, T Rendle 4½; D Tan, H Richards 4; G Jones 3½; L D'Costa 2½

American Football

NFL: Philadelphia 0 Dallas 34.

Hockey

MEN'S CHAMPIONS' TROPHY (Lahore): Spain 5 Germany 1; Australia 4 Pakistan 4; Netherlands 5 South Korea 0. **Standings:** 1, Netherlands (Pd, Pts9); 2, Australia (3–5), 3, Spain (3–4), South Korea (3–4); 5, Pakistan (3–2); 6, Germany (3–0).

Ice Hockey

NHL: Carolina 2 Colorado 3; NY Islanders 6 Florida 2; Edmonton 5 Vancouver 3

Squash

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (Lahore): **Finals:** D Ryan (Ire) bt P Price (Aus) 13–15, 15–11, 15–10, 15–10.
US OPEN (Boston): **Semi-finals:** P Nicol (Scot) bt S Parke (Eng) 15–10, 15–11, 15–5; J Power (Can) bt N Taylor (Eng) 15–11, 15–5, 15–6.

WOMEN'S WORLD OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP (Stuttgart): **Qualifying finals:** T Bailey (Eng) bt N Tippett (Aus) 9–2, 5–9, 9–5, 9–4; D Grzenka (Ger) bt I Meine (Ger) 1–9, 9–4, 9–1, 9–5; **M Zein** (Egypt) bt V Botwright (Eng) 9–5, 3–9, 10–8, 9–0; **S Beme** (Ger) bt M Vacca (Aus) 9–2, 9–3, 9–4; P Nimmo (Scot) bt K Paasivirta (Fin) 9–2, 9–2, 9–7; **M Jess** (Can) bt S Shabana (Egypt) 9–0, 9–7, 5–9, 9–3, 9–4; K Hardcastle (Eng) bt K Hannes (Bel) 9–6, 9–5, 9–2; **S Cook** (NZ) bt H Mactie (Scot) 9–1, 9–2, 9–2.

Fixtures

(7.45 unless stated)

Football

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Group A: Ajax v Olympiakos; Croatia Zagreb v FC Porto. **Group B:** Galatasaray v Rosenborg BK, Juventus v Athletic Bilbao. **Group C:** Sk Sturm Graz v Real Madrid, Spartak Moscow v Inter Milan. **Group D:** Barcelona v *Bayern Munich; Man Utd v Brondby.* **Group E:** Dynamo Kiev v Arsenal, Panathinaikos v Lons. **Group F:** Benfica v HJK Helsinki; Kaiserslautern v PSV Eindhoven.
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First Division: Bolton v Port Vale (8.0), QPR v Barnsley. **Second Division:** Reading v York (8.0).
FA CUP: Fourth qualifying round: Cheltenham v Taunton; Dag & Red v Stevenage (3.0); Leek Tn v Lancaster (7.30). **Replays:** Gateshead v Emley (7.30).
FA TROPHY: First-round replays: Weston Super Mare v Walton & Hersham (7.30).
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Challenge Cup: Second round: Farsley Celtic v Bishop Auckland (7.30).
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE CUP: First-round replays: Bishop's Stortford v Basingstoke Tn (7.30).
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Boston Utd v Halesowen (7.30). **Midland Division:** Newport AFC v Clevedon Tn (7.30), Paget Rngrs v Bilston Tn (7.30); RC Warwick v Stourbridge (7.30); Solihull Bor v Weston-S-Mare (7.30). **Southern Division:** Brackley Tn v Raunds Tn (7.30), Corby Tn v Baldock Tn (7.30).
NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First Division: St Helens Tn v Maine Road (7.30); *Skelmersdale Utd v Vauxhall GM* (7.30).
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE: First Division: Seaham RS v Stockton (7.30).
SCREENFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier Division: Taunton Tn v Melksham Tn (7.30); Tiverton Tn v Bristol MF (7.30).
PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Preston v Aston Villa (7.15). **First Division:** Grimsby v Wolverhampton (7.0), Middlesbrough v Burnley (7.0). **Second Division:** Huddersfield v Blackpool (7.0); Scarborough v Shelf Utd (7.0); Shrewsbury v Wrexham (7.0). **Third Division:** Darlington v Bury (2.0); Hartlepool v Halifax (7.0), Rochdale v Carlisle (2.0); Walsall v Scunthorpe (2.0).
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Division: Bournemouth v West Ham (7.30), Cambridge v Portsmouth (2.0); Fulham v Colchester (2.0), Luton v *Crystal Palace (2.0), Oxford v Millwall (7.30);* Southampton v Tottenham (7.30); Watford v Gillingham (7.30); Wimbledon v Arsenal (7.30), Wycombe v Brentford (2.0). **Postponed:** Barnet v Norwich.
HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckie Thistle v Peterhead (7.30), Deveronvale v Fraserburgh (8.0), Rothes v Fort William (8.0)

Rugby Union

CLUB MATCH: Oxford Univ v Worcester (7.30).
SWALEC CUP: Second round: Cilfynydd v Cardiff (7.30)

Rugby League

HOME INTERNATIONAL: Ireland v France (Talbot Pk, Dublin)

Ice Hockey

SUPERLEAGUE: Sheffield v Manchester (7.30).

Football

UEFA CUP

Second-round, second leg

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	16	9	7	0	37	11	34
Ipswich	16	9	4	3	23	9	31
Birmingham	17	8	5	4	22	15	29
Watford	17	8	4	5	26	26	28
Huddersfield	17	8	4	5	23	23	28
Sheff Utd	16	7	5	4	25	23	26
Grimsby	16	7	4	5	21	17	25
West Brom	16	7	3	6	32	29	24
Bradford City	15	7	3	5	26	18	24
Norwich	14	7	3	4	23	18	24
Wolverhampton	16	6	4	6	18	16	22
Bolton	14	6	3	5	28	24	21
Port Vale	16	6	3	7	18	27	21
Crystal Palace	14	6	2	6	22	24	20
Bury	17	5	5	7	12	18	20
Barnsley	16	4	7	5	20	23	19
Tranmere	15	4	7	4	19	21	19
Blackport	16	3	8	4	18	21	18
Swindon	17	5	5	8	25	30	17
Portsmouth	16	4	5	7	24	25	17
Bristol City	17	3	6	8	25	36	15
Oxford Utd	17	3	5	9	19	31	14
Crewe	16	2	5	9	18	33	11
QPR	15	2	3	10	11	26	9

Third Division

Plymouth (1) 3 — **Brentford** (0) 0
Barlow 26
4,650
Taylor 76, Bastow 85

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

First Division

Raith (1) 1 — **Airdrie** (2) 3
Cameron 25
Cooper 4
McCann 22, Black 61
1,420

FA CUP: Fourth qualifying round: Hendon 4 Bath 0; Basingstoke 2 Dover 2, Worcester C 7 Langney Spts 0; Welling 3 Whyteleafe 1; Carshalton 0 Salisbury 6; Crawley Tn 0 Slough 0 **Postponed:** Leek Tn v Lancaster (now tonight); Havant & Waterlooville v Hayes; Leatherhead v Rushden & D'monds (both now Mon, Nov 9). **Replays Postponed:** Gresley Rvrs v Frickley (now Thurs, Nov 5).
UNIBOND LEAGUE: First Division: Stocksbridge PS 2 Harrogate Tn 1, **Cup: Second round:** Accrington Stanley 2 Gt Harwood Tn 0; *Chorley 1 Marine 1; Droyls-*den 4 Hyde Utd 1; Leigh 0 Burscough 1; Runcorn 0 Colwyn Bay 3; Stalybridge Celtic 1 Altrincham 0.
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Burton Alb 1 Nuneaton 1; Grantham 0 Cambridge C 1; Tamworth 2 Ilkeston Tn 2.
N-W TRAINS LEAGUE: Floodlit Trophy: First-round, First leg: Kidsgrove Ath 3 Glossop NE 1; Prescot Cables 2 Atherton LR 1.
PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Derby 0 Blackburn 1. **Postponed:** Notts Forest v Birmingham. **First:** Coventry 1 Man C 0; Shelf Wed 1 Tranmere 0. **Seconds:** Bradford C 1 Stockport 1
IRISH LEAGUE: First Division: Ards 1 Carrick 0; Larne 0 Bangor 1.
GERMAN LEAGUE: Schalke 04 1 SC Freiburg 1.

Rugby Union

SWALEC CUP: Second round: Postponed: Cilfynydd v Cardiff (now playing tonight)

Tennis

ATP INDOOR TOURNAMENT (Paris): **First rounds J Golmard** (Fr) bt B Black *(Zim) 7–6, 6–4; M Norman* (Swe) bt A Clement (Fr) 7–6, 6–3, **V Spadea** (US) bt C Pioline (Fr) 6–4, 6–4; **F Santoro** (Fr) bt H Arazi (Mor) 4–6, 6–4, 6–1; **N Escude** (Fr) bt B Becker (Ger) 6–7, 7–5, 6–4, **Second rounds G Rusedski** (GB) bt N Kiefer (Ger) 6–3, 6–4; **T Henman** (GB) bt A Di Pasquale (Fr) 6–3, 6–3; **T Martin** (US) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro) 4–6, 6–1, 7–6; **T Martin** (US) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro) 4–6, 6–1, 7–6; **T Haas** (Ger) bt A Corretja (Sp) 7–6, 2–6, 6–3.
ATP COLOMBIAN OPEN (Bogota): **First rounds J Balcells** (Sp) bt N Lapentti (Ecu) 6–3, 7–5; **R Delgado** (Par) bt D Hrbaty (Slovak) 6–4, 6–3; **G Sargsian** (Arm) bt L Arnold (Arg) 6–2, 6–4; **M Puerta** (Arg) bt S Campbell (US) 6–1, 6–3.
WTA LEIPZIG OPEN: First round: A Sugiyama (Japan) bt S Kloesel (Ger) 6–4, 6–3; **S Graf** (Ger) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 6–3, 6–3; **M Zvereva** (Bela) bt H Nagyova *(Slovak) 7–5, 6–3, A Coetzer (SA) bt E*

Tennis

ATP INDOOR TOURNAMENT (Paris): **First rounds J Golmard** (Fr) bt B Black *(Zim) 7–6, 6–4; M Norman* (Swe) bt A Clement (Fr) 7–6, 6–3, **V Spadea** (US) bt C Pioline (Fr) 6–4, 6–4; **F Santoro** (Fr) bt H Arazi (Mor) 4–6, 6–4, 6–1; **N Escude** (Fr) bt B Becker (Ger) 6–7, 7–5, 6–4, **Second rounds G Rusedski** (GB) bt N Kiefer (Ger) 6–3, 6–4; **T Henman** (GB) bt A Di Pasquale (Fr) 6–3, 6–3; **T Martin** (US) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro) 4–6, 6–1, 7–6; **T Martin** (US) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro) 4–6, 6–1, 7–6; **T Haas** (Ger) bt A Corretja (Sp) 7–6, 2–6, 6–3.
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Champions League

Group E: Dynamo Kiev v Arsenal

Wreh of light for anxious Wenger

Martin Thorpe in Kiev

ARSENE WENGER is never going to show anything but public confidence in his players before such a difficult game as the one here tonight. But even this accentuator of the positive must harbour worrying doubts deep in that academic mind of his about whether the team he puts out in the Olympic Stadium are up to the task.

Losing Dennis Bergkamp was a problem but there was always Marc Overmars' trickery and pace on the left to offer a penetrative alternative. Now the other Dutchman has joined his compatriot on the sidelines, the wisdom of Wenger's faith in youth and inexperience will be tested to the full against a Ukraine side which so impressed Wembley two weeks ago. Emmanuel Petit, too, missed training yesterday with a throat infection, but unless it gets worse the manager is confident that his key midfielder will be fit to start.

Arsenal have a victory and two draws under their belts in this group and, while defeat tonight would not be fatal to their qualifying hopes, it would inflict a nasty wound.

The experienced Steve Bould will replace the injured Tony Adams in defence but up front the manager was yesterday still making up his mind about whom to play. Only one thing was clear. "I don't like to play with one up because we would end up doing too much defending," said Wenger.

He outlined three options up front: the 19-year-old Nicholas Anelka, playing alongside Christopher Wreh or Luis Boa Morte, or Boa Morte playing on the left with Anelka and Wreh forming the strikeforce. "Overall, " said Wenger, "I believe in my players even though they are young and inexperienced."

Their "inexperience", however, is only relative. All three are, after all, internationals while last week Boa Morte and Wreh starred in an Arsenal reserve team which still managed to beat an almost full-strength Derby County at Pride Park in the Worthington Cup.

So perhaps Wenger's confidence is not merely show. All will be revealed in the Olympic Stadium, where a kick-off of 9.45pm local time is not expected to deter some a crowd approaching 80,000 from turning up.

Kiev, who still have hopes of qualifying despite a poor start, are understood to be on bonuses of about £12,000 per man to beat Arsenal, not bad for such an impoverished country. But then this is a club all but run by the government, which is why the team's star striker Andryi Shevchenko sports a Merc and Italian designer clothes.

Arsenal's Wembley tormentor was taken off after 20 minutes of Kiev's game with CSKA last Friday amid reports that he was injured. No such luck for Arsenal: the man Milan are chasing will be there tonight with all his pace and skills trying fervently to rub salt into Arsenal's wounds.

Dynamo Kiev (probable): Shovkovsky; Luzhnyi, Holovko, Vaschuk, Dmytrulin; Kalaidza, Blalkevich, Husto, Kosovskyi, Shevchenko, Rebrov.
Arsenal (probable): Seaman; Dixon, Keown, Bould, Winterburn; Parlour, Viera, Petit, Boa Morte; Anelka, Wreh.



Driving force . . . Graham Thorpe collects a boundary in his unbeaten 64 which helped England to a draw IAN WALDIE

Group D: Manchester Utd v Brondby

Ferguson warns of past upsets

David Lacey

MANCHESTER United's Champions League game against Brondby at Old Trafford tonight looks dangerously easy, a banana skin waiting to happen. Alex Ferguson's team should win comfortably but will still need to watch their step.

Two weeks ago United routed the Danes 6-2 in Copenhagen, having already beaten them 6-0 there in a pre-season friendly. This victory, combined with Barcelona's 1-0 defeat by Bayern Munich in Bavaria, took United to the top of Group D, a point ahead of the Spanish champions. Barcelona and Bayern meet in Spain this evening.

Already the game between Barcelona and Manchester United at the Nou Camp in three weeks' time is looking like one of those climactic confrontations which were always the stuff of the European Cup. If both win tonight a draw from that match would suit United, who complete their group programme with Bayern's visit to Old Trafford on December 9 while Barcelona are away to Brondby.

Not that Group D has become a two-horse contest. Bayern are equally strong contenders and even Brondby, in theory, could still finish top. The latter prospect may be somewhat remote but the crowd of 50,000-odd pouring into Old Trafford tonight should not assume that Ebbe Skovdahl's side are merely there for a third caning.

Manchester United will have to be as well organised and disciplined in their approach to this match as Ferguson will want them to be in Barcelona. Memories of the upsets sprung at Old Trafford by Galatasaray and Fenerbahce, as well as the way Barcelona came back from 2-0 down to force a 3-3 draw there in September, should keep United on their guard.

"We have had enough European experience to know that it will be a hard game," Ferguson said yesterday. "Brondby beat Karlsruhe 5-0 in Germany two years ago and that's a warning to us. We know that if we make a mistake now it could cost us dearly."

Yet the rich vein of form which has brought United six wins and two draws since their 3-0 defeat at Arsenal should see them win with something to spare. Losing Ryan Giggs with a broken foot may yet cost United dear but for the moment at least Ferguson's options are relatively healthy. Jesper Blomqvist is the natural replacement for Giggs on the left wing while David Beckham, suspended in Copenhagen, will be on the right tonight.

With Denis Irwin fit, Ferguson need no longer improvise in the defence and the recoveries of Nicky Butt and Ronny Johnsen will give the manager a chance to save legs elsewhere. Nevertheless, the only change in United's starting line-up compared to the side which won 4-1 at Everton on Saturday is likely to see Irwin replacing Wes Brown.

Brondby's slim hopes tonight have not been helped by the loss of Thomas Lindrup, suspended after a second yellow card, although their captain John Jensen, the former Arsenal midfielder, is back from suspension.

Manchester United (probable): Schmeichel; P Neville, G Neville, Stam, Irwin; Beckham, Keane, Scholes, Blomqvist; Cole, Yorke.
Brondby (probable): Kregb; Colding, Rasmussen, Nielsen, Sterbalius; Bjur, Daugaard, Jensen, Ravn, Bagger, Sand.

Tour match: Western Australia v England XI

Scorn poured on England

Mike Selvey in Perth sees the tourists seize the moral low ground and Langer rub it in

THIS game was supposed to be a learning experience and confidence booster for the second Test. But, if England are to take any succour into Saturday's match against South Australia in Adelaide, their psychologist Steve Bull will have to dig mighty deep to find it.

England drew the game with something in hand but, had it been a boxing match, Western Australia would have won a unanimous and convincing points decision. Justin Langer declared at 268 for three shortly before lunch, leaving England 282 to win in a minimum of 69 overs.

It was very gettable but England were hardly in with a shout, although John Crawley played enterprisingly at the start to make 65 and later Graham Thorpe batted through two and a quarter hours to see them to safety with an unbeaten 64. Langer eventually pulled the plug with four overs remaining and England on 192 for four.

To describe England's overall performance as second-rate, however, bestows undue credit on it and later Langer could scarcely conceal his scorn. "If they play like that," he said, "it will be a long hard summer."

The Melbourne Cup was run yesterday and the team were greeted at their hotel in the morning by the unnerving sight of women transforming the lobby into a cross between Ladies Day at Ascot and the Mad Hatter's tea party in order to sit in front of a television and watch an event happening 2,000 miles away. Popular myth has it that Australia grinds to a halt for the race but the only thing that appeared to come to a shuddering stop in Perth was England's competitive edge.

The day began with a smoke haze across the city, caused by an easterly wind and anti-bush fire measures of controlled burning in the ranges beyond Perth. The smoke might have come from Ryan Campbell's bat, however, as he took his overnight 117 to 146, the second-highest ever made for Western Australia against England, scored at a run a ball.

In all he hit 23 fours, the last four of them in succession off Angus Fraser — one biffed over long-on, the next drilled straight past him, the one after pulled square when the bowler dropped his length and the final one thumped back over his head again — before he was caught at long-on off Robert Croft.

This was Croft's second wicket of the morning. In his first over, with a declaration already in mind and the second-wicket stand with Campbell worth 120, Langer heaved mightily and spiralled a catch to extra cover. Croft — a front-line bowler who is touring, remember, on the strength of a season that saw him finish 142nd out of 144 in the bowling averages — appeared pleased and no wonder. Since his three wickets in the second innings of the fourth Test in Guyana last winter he had bowled around a thousand deliveries for England and taken the single wicket of Floyd Reifer in a match against Barbados.

Fraser was just slaughtered. He of all the bowlers was always likely to find the adjustment in length most difficult: on a true, bouncy pitch such as this his natural length is too short for the pace he bowls but he then over-compensates.

In England's last Test here in 1995 he had match figures of three for 158 and it may be that England will need to be selective in where they play someone who is regarded as indispensable.

The start to England's second innings was almost as dismal as it was to their first. Opening in Mark Butcher's absence, Dominic Cork demonstrated during his two-ball tenure that England will consider batting him at seven at their peril. The way Sean Cary squared him up with a short ball and had him caught at gully was embarrassingly easy.

Crawley's bat, though, had a pleasing ring to it and, with Nasser Hussain also timing the ball nicely after his first-innings century, a successful chase remained on the cards. But Hussain was suckered by a slower ball, giving a catch to cover point, and then, immediately after tea, as Matt Nicholson went round the wicket, Crawley made a mess of a pull and was caught at cover.

Had the luck gone Western Australia's way now they might well have won, for Mark Ramprakash, a world away from the composed batsman of the first innings, almost played on, then survived a vehement claim for a catch behind, both before he had scored, while Thorpe survived a chance to silly point off the left-arm slow bowling of Brad Oldroyd.

In fact the pair somehow survived together for 75 minutes, almost taking the game to the point where Langer would have called it a day, when Ramprakash played back to Oldroyd and was given out leg-before.

It gave Western Australia one last shot. Langer called up Nicholson, the bowling hero of the first innings, but Thorpe kept his composure and Hegg gleefully carved him through the offside to make his own personal point. With the high ground in his custody, Langer decided enough was enough.

Scoreboard

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: First innings 334-8 dec (S M Katich 106, J L Langer 65, M Nicholson 58no; Gough 4-74).

ENGLAND: First innings 321 (N Hussain 118, M R Ramprakash 81; Nicholson 7-77).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Second innings (overnight: 170-1)

†R J Campbell c Sub b Croft	146
*J L Langer c Ramprakash b Croft	41
S M Katich not out	24
M G Dighton not out	27
Extras (lb2, nb1)	3
Total (for 3 dec, 84 overs)	268

Fall of wickets: 120, 220.
Did not bat: S R Cary, K M Harvey, S Jurgensen, M Nicholson, B J Oldroyd, C Rogers.
Bowlings: Gough 8-1-42-0; Cork 14-5-45-0; Croft 21-5-68-2; Mullally 8-1-29-1; Fraser 7-1-49-0; Ramprakash 6-0-32-0

ENGLAND
Second innings

J P Crawley c Katich b Nicholson	65
D G Cork c Nicholson b Cary	0
*N Hussain c Katich b Jurgensen	28
G P Thorpe not out	64
M R Ramprakash lbw b Oldroyd	14
†W K Hegg not out	11
Extras (b4, lb5, nb1)	10
Total (for 4, 55 overs)	192

Fall of wickets: 2, 88, 121, 162
Did not bat: M A Butcher, R D B Croft, D Gough, A R C Fraser, A D Mullally.
Bowlings: Jurgensen 10-4-26-1, Cary 5-3-11-1; Nicholson 14-3-45-1; Harvey 5-2-15-0; Oldroyd 23-6-56-1; Katich 5-1-32-0.
Umpires: D Harper and T Prue
Match drawn.

West Indies tour row over absent Lara

David Hopps

BRIAN LARA was involved in a display of brinkmanship with the West Indies Cricket Board in London yesterday amid speculation that he and nearly half the West Indies team were on the verge of pulling out of the forthcoming tour of South Africa because of an escalating financial dispute.

Lara, the West Indies captain, his vice-captain Carl Hooper and seven other players disregarded instructions to travel directly to South Africa from Bangladesh, where West Indies had been runners-up in the Wills International Cup.

Instead they flew to London to press the squad's financial claims during an emergency meeting of the board. "Nine of the players are in London," a source close to the players confirmed. "The action comes from the West Indies players, who want a better deal."

Lara has been no stranger to controversy during his West Indies career but in this latest feud he is clearly acting with the approval of his team-mates.

Since gaining the Test captaincy he craved Lara has become a more contented figure and spoke warmly at the end of the Wills one-day tournament, where West Indies had lost in the final to South Africa, of the increasingly "happy feel" within the squad.

The board's president Pat Rousseau initially suggested the attitude of Lara and Hooper was "particularly surprising" as an agreement had been reached with players' representatives about tour fees. Rousseau also condemned them for "ignoring written instructions" from the team manager Clive Lloyd to fly directly to South Africa.

However, Roland Holder, the secretary of the Players' Association, insisted permission had been properly sought for Lara and Holder to travel to London.



Lara . . . flew to London

Holder also played down suggestions that they were about to withdraw from the tour.

Such confidence was not being expressed in South Africa, however. Ali Bacher, the chief executive of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said his counterpart in the West Indies, Steve Camacho, had informed him that the pair had pulled out of the tour, West Indies' first Test series in South Africa since the abandonment of apartheid there led to reinstatement six years ago.

"Camacho told me that the tour will still take place and I believe that this will still happen," Bacher said.

● Salim Malik, who recently had a poor Test series against Australia, has been dropped by Pakistan for the first one-day match against the tourists in Lahore on Friday.

Team talk
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Tennis

British pair in perfect symmetry

Stephen Bierley in Paris

THE OUTSIDE walls of the Palais Omnisport in Bercy are covered in grass. This is not a reflection of the building's age or imminent demise. Far from it.

But to see this lush green vision every morning must cause Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski a wry smile. Normally the two associate being in France with springtime, the French Open and spitting clay at Roland Garros.

This year the pair suffered a double first-round defeat in the French Open. Yesterday, like a couple of Folie dancing girls, they performed again in almost perfect symmetry but this time winning their opening matches in the Paris Indoor Open.

Henman defeated the 19-year-old Frenchman Arnaud Di Pasquale 6-3, 6-3 and Rusedski beat Germany's No. 1 Nicolas Kiefer 6-3, 6-4, both taking an hour and eight minutes.

This time last year Rusedski was close to clinching his place in the end-of-season ATP Championships at Hanover. This time the roles are reversed with Henman pressing hard for a place.

It is still possible that Rusedski, if he were to win this tournament, might squeeze in but realistically he knows this to be unlikely. "I think it's going to be nearly impossible," he said.

Rusedski's match was on Court One which appears to be in the basement and feels positively submarine. Lobs are out of the question which further enhanced the British No. 2's chances against Kiefer who, despite denials, has obviously modelled his game on Andre Agassi, although to date he lacks the American's intensity of shot.

Rusedski had to fight off seven break points on his serve in the second set but he was never in serious trouble. Kiefer, who first came to prominence a year ago when he reached the quarter-finals at Wimbledon, is still only 21 and already ranked No. 34 but he frequently appears to have problems motivating himself. In this respect he is a true clone of Agassi.

Di Pasquale was the world junior champion last year and is obviously an exceptional athlete. French journalists are fervently hoping he will be successful for no greater reason than he is a joy to talk to.

Henman was aware, as the senior pro, that he needed to lay a firm hand on the young French sprog, whose game is devoid of inhibitions. This he achieved, breaking the teenager's serve for an immediate 2-0 lead.

Both Henman and Rusedski must wait until today to find out their third-round opponents. Rusedski will play either Spain's Carlos Moya, the world No. 4, or Australia's Jason Stoltenberg while Henman faces a possible meeting with Yevgeny Kafelnikov, assuming the Russian defeats Sweden's Magnus Norman.

● Steffi Graf, the former world No. 1 making her latest comeback from injury, defeated Romania's Ruxandra Dragomir in straight sets yesterday at the Leipzig Open.

Graf, who had an operation on her right hand, displayed flashes of the powerful forehand that dominated the women's game for a decade in ousting Dragomir 6-3, 6-3.

Rugby League

Stains to coach slipping Broncos

Andy Wilson

LONDON Broncos ended their search for a coaching successor to Tony Currie yesterday by appointing the former Cronulla forward Dan Stains on a two-year contract.

The Broncos had been linked with a host of Australians since parting company with Currie three weeks ago. Stains was not among them but he comes with strong Australian recommendation, from Jack Gibson, Arthur Beetson and Wayne Pearce.

Stains will attend Saturday's second Test between Great Britain and New Zealand in Bolton before getting down to the task of taking the Broncos back to their 1997 form, when they finished second in the Super League. The club slipped to seventh last season.

All 25,000 tickets for the Bolton Test have been sold, with Great Britain needing to win to keep the series alive. Adrian Morley, the Leeds forward who missed Saturday's 22-16 defeat at Huddersfield, is still struggling with his ankle injury but the St Helens hooker Keiron Cunningham expects to recover from the rib and facial injuries which forced him off in the second half.

Shaun Edwards will make his Ireland debut against France at Dublin's Tolka Park tonight. He is one of 11 Super League players who qualify because their parents or grandparents are Irish.

Two players from the Sydney club Parramatta have signed to play in the Super League next summer. Paul Caridge, a winger, will join Salford while Sheffield Eagles have signed Karl Lovell, a powerful 20-year-old three-quarter. Mike Ford has been appointed player-coach of Bramley.

Sailing

Top honour caps Ainslie's fine year

Bob Fisher

BEN AINSLIE, the Olympic silver medallist, has won the World Sailor of the Year award after a year in which the 21-year-old has been synonymous with success.

Almost as soon as the Olympic silver medal in the Laser class was round his neck in Atlanta in 1996 he announced his intention of going one better four years later in Sydney and he has stuck diligently to that quest. By February of this year he had overtaken the gold medallist, Robert Scheidt of Brazil, in the world rankings.

Having begun by winning the Melbourne International regatta in January Ainslie went to Dubai eager to face Scheidt in what both acknowledged would be a showdown in the World Championship. The Briton beat Scheidt comprehensively and followed that with a win at Kiel Week.

Then he won the British National Championship and within a month had become European champion too with victory in Austria. He has also qualified Britain for a place in the Laser class at the next Olympics.

Carolijn Brouwer of the Netherlands, the 26-year-old world champion in the Europe class, is the women's world sailor, making 1998 undoubtedly the year of the young sailors.

Sport in brief

Boxing

Mike Tyson's return after a 15-month absence is expected to be against South Africa's Francois Botha at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on January 16. Botha, handled by the promoter Frank Warren, is the No. 1 contender for Evander Holyfield's IBF title.

Jane Couch, who won a legal battle to fight in Britain, makes her domestic debut against the German Simona Lukic at Caesars night-club in London on November 25.

Squash

Scotland's Peter Nicol will play Jonathan Power, his arch Canadian rival, in today's US Open final in Boston, their first meeting since the controversial Commonwealth Games final in Kuala Lumpur. Nicol moved through by beating Simon Parke and Power disposed of Nick Taylor.

Rugby Union

Leeds Tykes look set to be disciplined by the Rugby Football Union — probably a deduction of two points — for playing Wendell Sailor against Rotherham last weekend even though the RFU is now prepared to sanction his clearance. The RFU has decided that the Australia wing's rugby league contract with Leeds Rhinos did not also require him to play union.

Ice Hockey

Peterborough Pirates have released the Finnish winger Tedy Salutskij, who has scored only twice in 14 games, *writes Vic Batchelder*. "We need to strengthen our team in other areas," said Pirates' coach Troy Walkington.

Rodber takes on lock's role, page 13

Kiwis triumph at the races, page 13

Celtic exit in a flurry of goals, page 14

Red faces for England in Perth, page 15

SportsGuardian

Ten-man Vigo stun the home crowd

Uefa Cup, second round, second leg: Aston Villa 1 Celta Vigo 3 (aggregate: 2–3)

Villa crumble under pressure

Paul Weaver

ASTON VILLA's early season invincibility suddenly looked the stuff of hoary history. Last night they were knocked out of this tournament when they were beaten 3–1 by their Spanish visitors.

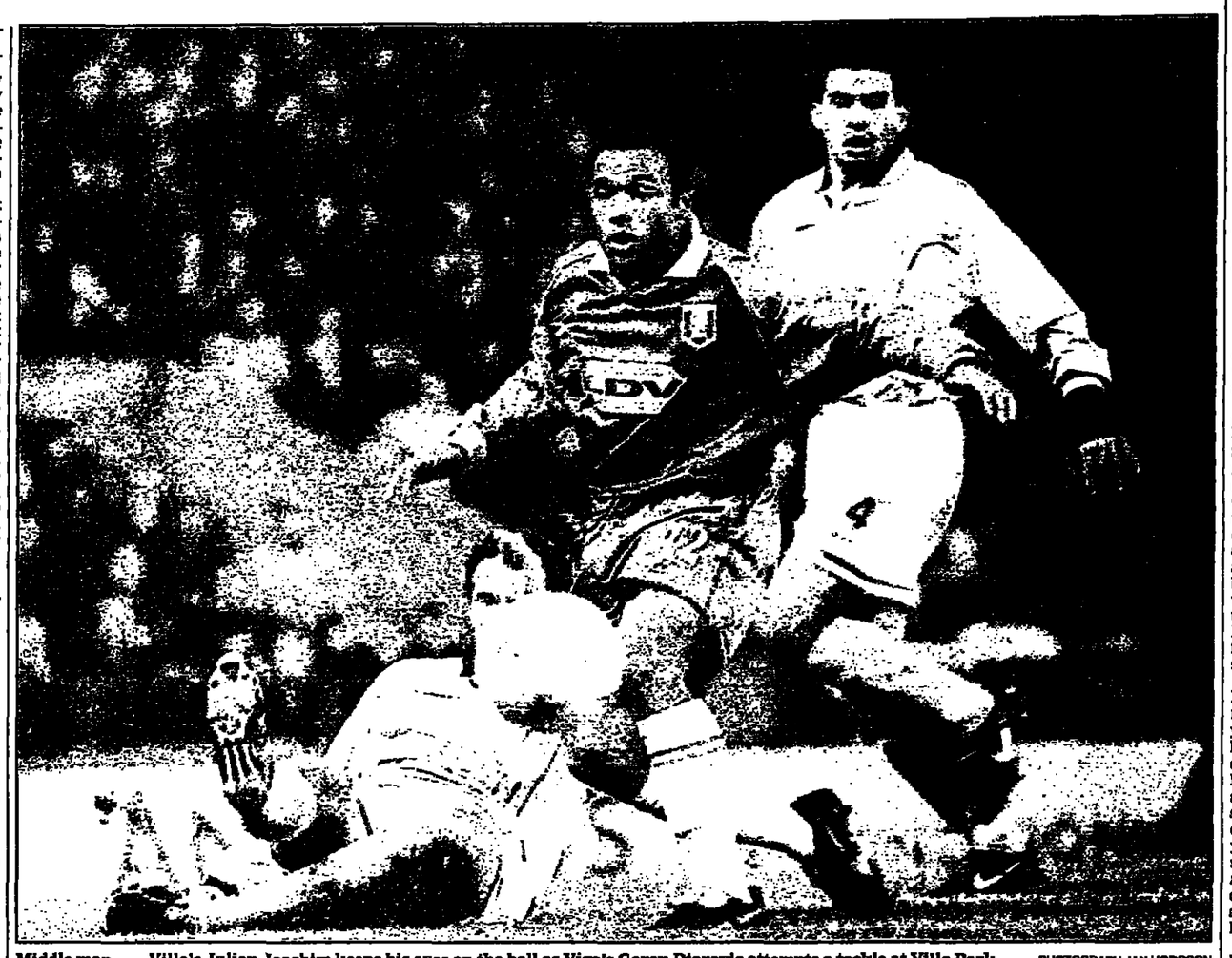
Following their 4–1 defeat by Chelsea in the Worthington Cup in their previous match, it means Villa have conceded seven goals in their last two matches. No one doubted the quality of the Spaniards following the first match two weeks earlier. But in view of Villa's 1–0 away win and the fact that they were reinforced in midfield for last night's match, the result was the source of bitter disappointment for the crowd of 29,910.

Vigo played the match with the easy confidence of a side whose run of eight unbeaten games had taken them to fourth position in the Spanish league. Villa, so often happy to sit back on their redoubtable defence and absorb pressure, had little say in the matter as the pale blue shirts of the visiting side swarmed around them.

It was little surprise, therefore, when the Spanish side took the lead in the 26th minute. Alexandre Mostovoi, whose movement and shooting power was to cause the Villa defence so much consternation on the night, threaded a fine through ball to Juan Sanchez who beat the Villa goalkeeper Michael Oakes with a low, clinical finish.

Villa had gone close to taking an early lead in the third minute when Julian Joachim, who had scored the only goal in the first leg in Spain, crossed from the right and Stan Collymore headed past Richard Dutruele. But the linesman flagged for offside.

Villa, however, were behind for only four minutes. The equaliser, on the half hour, had an element of good fortune about it. Ian Taylor burst into the box but as he was tackled by Mazinho the defender handled the ball as he slid in. Collymore made it 1–1 from the spot.



Middle man ... Villa's Julian Joachim keeps his eyes on the ball as Vigo's Goran Djorovic attempts a tackle at Villa Park PHOTOGRAPH: IAN HODGSON

Vigo, like Villa, had only four minutes to feel sorry for themselves. Villa's Ugo Ehiogu fouled Sanchez on the edge of the area and Mostovoi's perfectly executed free-kick curled round the wall and into the bottom righthand corner.

Villa were lucky to go in only one goal behind at half-time. Some delightful interplay between Valeri Karpin and Penev resulted in Mostovoi shooting just over the bar. Villa made the worst possible start to the second half. It was in only its third minute when Vigo went 3–1 up. Lee Hendrie conceded a free-kick on the left. It was taken by the ever-potent Mostovoi and Sanchez met it with a header which Oakes did well to get down to. But he could not hold the ball and Penev scored from close range.

Villa now required two goals but they almost pulled one back in the 55th minute when Alan Thompson hit the left post. The goalkeeper Dutruele gathered the ball rather nonchalantly on the rebound.

Two minutes later Villa's frustrated players received further encouragement. Rafael Bergas, who had been booked towards the end of the opening half, was shown the red card when he brought down Taylor. The Vigo bench responded immediately by bringing on Dan Eggen for Sanchez. But Vigo showed a marked reluctance to rely entirely on their defence.

Villa, who had been without Taylor and Thompson in Spain two weeks ago because they were suspended, and who last night replaced Mark Draper and Riccardo Scimeca, should have been stronger, but they were consistently outwitted by Vigo's quicker thought and movement.

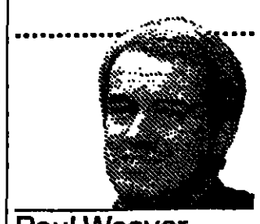
Aston Villa (3-5-2): Oakes; Ehiogu, Southgate, Barry (Vassell, 85min); Charles (Draper, 74), Taylor, Hendrie, Thompson (Grayson, 83), Wright; Joachim, Collymore.

Celta Vigo (4-1-3-2): Dutruele; Michel, Caceres, Djorovic, Bergas; Mazinho; Karpin (Tomas, 70), Mostovoi, Makelele; Penev (Cadete, 77), Sanchez (Eggen, 56).

Referee A Ancion (Belgium).

More European football, pages 14 and 15

New players in the real power game



Paul Weaver

IF you thought that movers and shakers were nifty cocktail waiters, bow-tied alchemists or magical makers of luminous neck-oil, the weekend came as something of a shock.

Movers and shakers are people with power and influence and according to Power 300, which sounds like a cold remedy or a list of Test triple centurions but is in fact an Observer/Channel 4 compilation of those who exert most daily influence on our lives, our precious little three score and 10 is being presided over by the sort of scurvy crew with whom you would be reluctant to entrust your goldfish. Power 300 also includes more footballers than you could shake an offside flag at.

It is another little shock, having overcome the grim realisation that despite long years bent over clattering Adlers and Olivettis, dog-eared dictionaries and thesauruses, having shown the patience of a glacier and reached that stage in life when detective chief superintendents look younger every day, I find myself as far away from said list as John Glenn's shuttle Discovery and remain firmly among the the Powerless 60 Million.

Football is led by Ian Wright, a former plasterer, now a telephone salesman, admirer of Martin Luther King and occasional goalscorer for West Ham United, who is judged to be the 162nd most influential person in these islands. He is ahead of Alan Shearer (198th) and Michael Owen (209th).

Defenders and midfield players, even those as well known as Paul Gascoigne and David Beckham, are left on the bench. So is the entire first-team squad of Sheffield Wednesday, which is rather surprising considering that Lord Hattersley was one of the judges.

The three named footballers finish some way in front of the Conservative Party leader William Hague (250th), which is less surprising perhaps than the fact that they are within free-kick range of the famous boiling-water demonstrator Delia Smith (152nd) and the W H Auden lookalike Mick Jagger (139th).

They are more central to our lives than James Boyle (228th), the controller of BBC Radio 4, and Baroness Thatcher (240th). They come in ahead of such arts, film and musical moguls as Sir Cameron Mackintosh (212th), Trevor Nunn (232nd), Kenneth Branagh (236th) and Lord Lloyd Webber (243rd).

The list, said to be the first of its kind, charts the decline of the Church, the aristocracy and the trade union leader in our everyday lives, and recognises the growing power of business and entertainment, money and media. And it reminds us of the strong influence of sport, and especially the sexiness of modern football.

There is also room for managers, although a few years ago they would surely have outnumbered the players. Newcastle United's Ruud Gullit (214th) nips in ahead of Manchester United's Alex Ferguson (221st) but there is no room for the England coach Glenn Hoddle. Perhaps the compilers had a tip-off from the Football Association's chief executive Peter Leaver QC (295th), who should not be confused with the former Lancashire and England fast bowler Peter Lever.

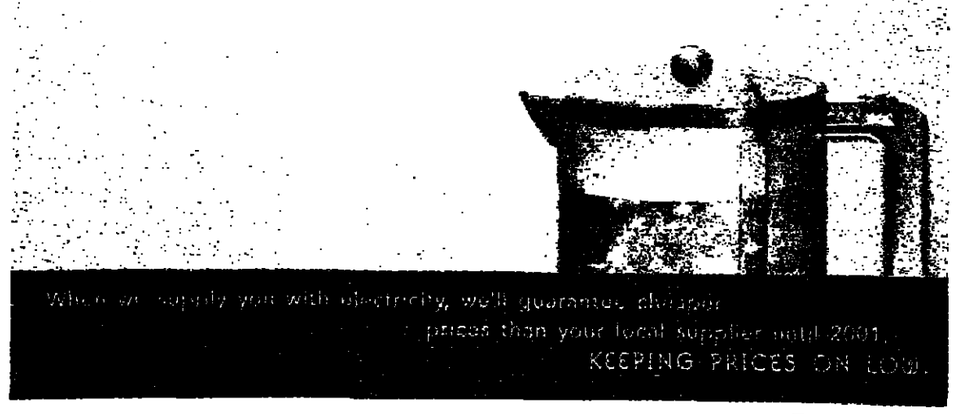
Another football man recognised was the Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein, who appears one place above Leaver in the list.

Sadly, with another Ashes series just around the corner, not a single flannelled fool makes the cut. Chris Smith (45th) is not the former Hampshire and England batsman but the Culture Secretary.

THERE are other disappointments. Eddie George (sixth) sounds as if he should be a darts player but is, in fact, governor of the Bank of England. Gerhard Schröder (eighth) should, one feels, be involved in wheel-to-wheel combat with Mika Hakkinen but happens to be the German chancellor. Formula One is represented by its Bernie Ecclestone, who lines up in 226th position on the grid. And John Bond (67th) is not the former maverick manager of Norwich and Manchester City but group executive of HSBC Holdings.

You might argue that such a list is subjective and controversial. But so are all lists, as Nick Hornby's protagonist discovered in High Fidelity. And having — along with three back-row class-mates — once blown an entire geography lesson thinking up alternative names for the male genitalia, I can tell you that lists are jolly important.

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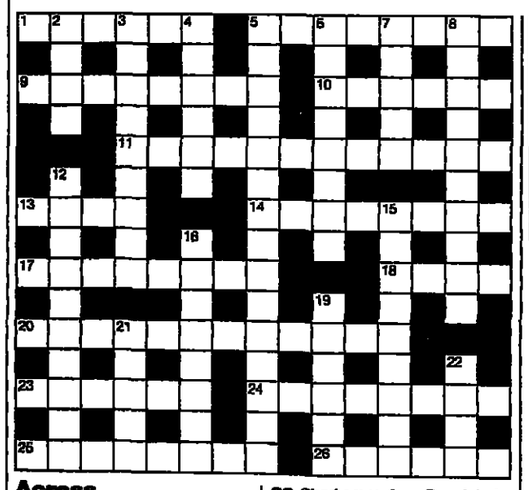
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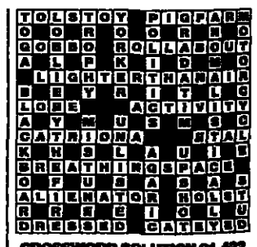
Igor Aleksander of Imperial College is working on a neural network called Magnus which he hopes might one day experience something called consciousness. Ian Pearson, a futurologist at BT, cheerfully predicts silicon intelligence enhancement and brain "add-ons" within 35 years. What's going on in your head?

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Across

1 Detective story narrator heard enquiring about entertainment? (6)
5 County, river, and city old as the deluge? (8)
9 On-line promotion for pastry (4-4)
10 Take and keep trophy — awfully coy about it (6)
11 Observer of 9 teaches someone at the wheel (12)
13 Man in the house for the Rope (4)
14 In the beginning trousers are put on the box (8)
17 I am Logan the fruit tree (8)
18 Academic English is finished (4)
20 Characters from Peel County take mulled ale with big fish-eater (8,4)
23 Shed power from Don John's victory (4-2)
24 I'm surprised about illicit liquor being in 9 (4-4)
25 Fiddle return of age bracket (8)
26 Second childhood is when you get your dowry (6)

Down

2 A qualification to be a neighbour (4)
3 Clasp deposit box before doin' office work (6-3)
4 Sweet nothing with argon for hydrogen (6)
5 The clear object (8,7)
6 Wide loop accommodated fire supply (8)
7 Loop good for bed? (5)
8 Sordid entanglement of Anne with St Paul (10)
12 The German disease means trouble with 9 (10)
15 Interrupt some Indochinese with some delicacy, that is to say (9)
16 All OK with aid maybe of morphine? (8)
19 Top note? (6)
21 Father's two letters crossing? (5)
22 Want to be extended (4)

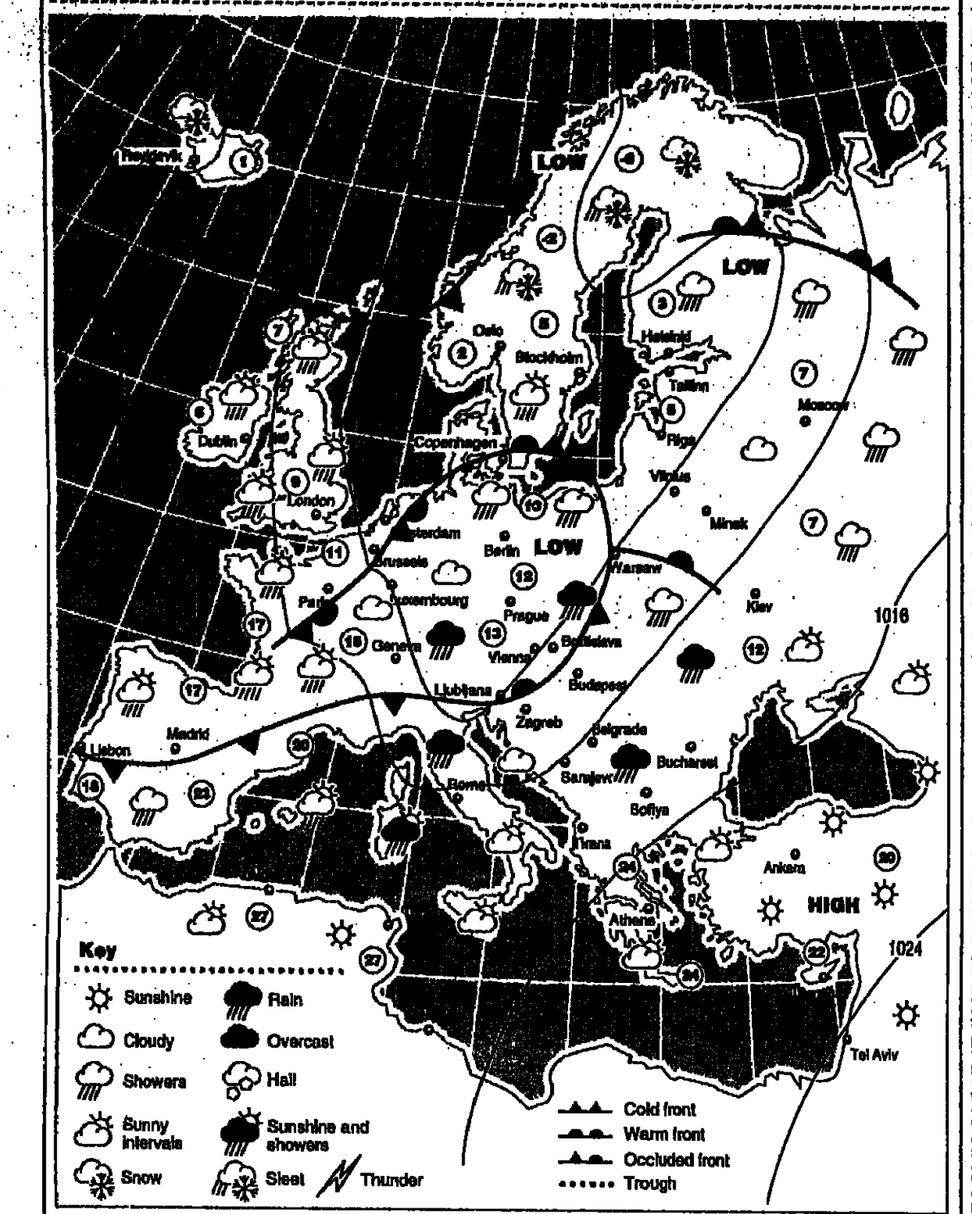
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The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities

	Today max	min	weather	Tomorrow max	min	weather
Algiers	27	14	F	Algiers	26	14	F
Amsterdam	10	4	Th	Amsterdam	9	4	Sh
Athens	24	16	F	Athens	24	16	F
Berlin	10	4	Sh	Berlin	8	3	Sh
Bonn	10	3	Sh	Bonn	9	3	Sh
Brussels	9	3	Sh	Brussels	9	4	Sh
Copenhagen	7	1	R	Copenhagen	6	1	H
Crete	25	16	F	Crete	24	16	F
Geneva	14	6	Th	Geneva	12	2	F
Larnaca	27	16	S	Larnaca	27	16	S
London	9	2	Sh	London	11	6	F
Madrid	18	6	Sh	Madrid	16	4	F
Milan	15	9	R	Milan	17	7	F
Nice	19	12	Sh	Nice	20	11	S
Oslo	2	-2	Sl	Oslo	3	-2	Sl
Paris	11	5	Sh	Paris	11	4	F
Rome	22	15	C	Rome	22	11	Sh
Stockholm	6	-1	Sh	Stockholm	4	-2	F
Tunis	27	19	F	Tunis	27	18	F
Vienna	13	7	Sh	Vienna	12	4	F

	Friday max	min	weather	Saturday max	min	weather
Algiers	26	14	Sh	Algiers	23	12	F
Amsterdam	11	5	Sh	Amsterdam	13	7	Sh
Athens	24	15	F	Athens	22	14	Sh
Berlin	9	4	Sh	Berlin	10	6	Sh
Bonn	11	4	Sh	Bonn	13	5	F
Brussels	11	5	Sh	Brussels	12	6	F
Copenhagen	7	3	Sh	Copenhagen	9	5	Sh
Crete	26	18	F	Crete	22	16	F
Geneva	11	3	F	Geneva	13	3	F
Larnaca	28	18	S	Larnaca	27	16	S
London	13	7	F	London	15	8	F
Madrid	19	3	F	Madrid	19	4	F
Milan	17	7	F	Milan	16	8	F
Nice	19	11	S	Nice	19	11	S
Oslo	3	-2	Sl	Oslo	2	-1	Sl
Paris	13	6	F	Paris	13	6	F
Rome	20	9	F	Rome	20	7	F
Stockholm	5	-2	F	Stockholm	4	-1	Sh
Tunis	28	15	F	Tunis	21	14	C
Vienna	11	4	F	Vienna	11	4	F

C, cloudy; D, drizzle; F, fair; Fg, fog; H, hail; R, rain; Sl, sleet; Sh, snow; S, sunny; Th, thunder. * (previous day)

Around the world

Yesterday's lunchtime reports

Ajaccio	C	19	66	London	Sh	9	48
Algiers	C	25	77	Los Angeles	F	19	66
Alicante	C	24	75	Luxbourg	C	9	48
Amst'dam	Sh	9	48	Madrid	C	17	63
Athens	S	23	73	Majorca	C	23	73
Auckland	C	18	64	Malaga	C	22	72
B Aires	S	21	70	Malta	S	22	72
Bahrain	S	32	90	Melbourne	F	24	75
Bangkok	C	31	88	Mexico C'y	C	23	73
Barcelona	C	22	72	Miami	C	27	81
Beijing	S	13	55	Milan	C	14	57
Belgrade	F	15	61	Montreal	R	6	43
Berlin	C	7	45	Moscow	Sn	1	34
Bermuda	C	24	75	Munich	R	7	45
Biarritz	R	14	57	Nairobi	F	24	75
Bombay	C	36	97	Naples	C	21	70
Bordeaux	R	12	54	New Delhi	S	27	81
Boston	C	13	55	N Orleans	F	22	72
Brussels	Sh	9	48	New York	C	12	54
Budapest	F	12	54	Nice	R	13	55
Cairo	S	27	81	Oporto	Sh	14	57
Calcutta	S	30	86	Oslo	F	4	39
Cape Town	F	18	64	Paris	F	12	54
Casablanca	F	22	72	Perth	F	19	66
Chicago	C	10	50	Prague	C	9	48
Copnhagen	R	2	36	Reykjavik	F	2	36
Corfu	C	21	70	Rhodes	F	22	72
Dallas	C	14	57	Rio de Jan.	C	20	68
Dhaka	S	32	90	Rome	C	21	70
Dublin	C	7	45	Sarajevo	C	17	63
Faro	C	19	66	Singapore	C	29	84
Florence	C	18	64	Stockholm	C	4	39
Frankfurt	C	11	52	Strasbourg	C	11	52
Funchal	F	23	73	Sydney	C	18	61
Geneva	C	14	57	Tel Aviv	S	28	82
Gibraltar	C	21	70	Tenerife	F	25	79
Helsinki	Sl	2	36	Tokyo	S	23	73
Hong Kong	C	24	75	Toronto	C	6	43
Innsbruck	C	12	54	Tunis	S	23	73
Istanbul	S	19	66	Vancouver	R	11	52
Joburg	F	24	75	Venice	C	14	57
K. Lumpur	C	30	86	Vienna	C	11	52
Kingston	S	31	88	Warsaw	R	4	39
Larnaca	F	28	77	Wash'gton	C	14	57
Lima	C	22	72	Wellington	C	19	66
Lisbon	Sh	17	63	Zurich	R	7	45

European weather outlook

Scandinavia:
A rather dull, chilly day with some showers for most places and only limited bright spells. The showers will be of snow over the mountains with some sleet and hail likely at lower levels. Max temps 2-5C in the south, but sub-zero in the north.

Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland:
An unsettled day everywhere. The Low Countries will have sunny spells with one or two showers. Across Germany and south to the Alps, it will be generally cloudy with spells of rain, much of it heavy, particularly in the Alps. Max temps 9-12C in the Low Countries and Germany; up to 15C further south.

France:
The north will have a few sunny spells but also occasional showers. The Alps and the south will have a lot of cloud and prolonged periods of heavy rain. Temperatures will range from only 11C in the north to 20C on the Mediterranean coast.

Spain and Portugal:
Heavy, thundery rain will affect much of the south. To the north of Madrid there will be better sunny spells, but it will be cool. Max temps 14C on the north coast of Spain but will increase to 23C in the far south.

Italy:
Heavy rain across the north will gradually spread southwards reaching Rome later this afternoon. To the south, it will remain dry with some decent spells of pleasant sunshine. Temperatures will range from 15 or 16C in the Po valley, to 23C in Sicily.

Greece:
A generally dry day with some good sunny spells for the islands and the mainland. However there will be a build up of cloud over the higher ground with an increasing risk of a shower. Max temp 21-24C.

Television and radio

BBC 1

7.00am Sixteen Breakfast. 9.25 BBC Breakfast News. 10.00 Kilroy. 10.45 Style Challenge. 11.05 City Hospital. 11.55 News; Regional News and Weather. 12.20 Best Houses. 12.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 12.55 News; Regional News. 1.00 Pass the Buck. 1.25 Going for a Song. 1.50 The Weather Show. 2.00 News. 2.05 Regional News. 2.40 Neighbours. 3.05 Incredible Inventions of Wallace and Gromit. 3.20 Wipeout. 4.05 Children's BBC Playday: 4.40 Dangermouse. 4.50 Count Duckula. 5.10 Get Your Own Back. 5.35 Blue Peter. 6.00 Newsround. 6.10 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. 7.00 News. 7.05 Regional News Magazine. 7.30 A Question of Sport. 8.00 Newsround's World. 8.05 The Life of Birds. 8.55 The National Lottery: Amazing Lives Bonus. 10.00 News. 10.30 National Lottery Update. 10.35 Health Files. 11.05 Best of Britain. 11.50 Alan Clarke: Urban Terrorist. 12.30 Inside the X Files. 1.20 Film: Hudson Hawk. 3.05 Weather. 3.10 BBC News 24.

BBC 2

7.00am The Bagpipers, Pedro. 8.00 King Arthur's Great Adventure. 8.20 Tom and Jerry Kids. 8.35 Tic Tac Toe. 9.00 Rolf's Cartoon Club. 9.25 Blue Peter Badge Challenge. 10.00 Fireman Sam. 10.10 Teletubbies. 10.30 Watch This Space. 10.40 Home Front in the Garden. 11.05 Newsnight. 11.40 Call Cats' Spot. 12.00 Around Scotland. 12.30 The Geography Programme. 12.45 Science in Action. 1.00 Teaching Today. 1.30 Working Lunch. 2.30 Antiques Jungle. 2.50 Sophie Grigson's Herbs. 3.05 The History Hour. 3.55 Match of Their Day. 5.00 News; Regional News. 5.05 Masterchef with Diane Lees. 5.35 News; England News. 5.50 Change That. 5.55 Ready, Steady, Cook. 6.25 Esther. 6.50 Today's the Day. 7.00 Star Trek: TNG. 7.45 Strike. 8.30 Black British. 9.30 The Antigua Show. 10.00 News. 10.30 Living with the Enemy. 11.15 A Woman Called Smith. 11.50 Newsnight. 12.15 Video Nation Bangladesh Shorts. 12.25 Brothers and Sisters. 12.50 Weather. 1.00 Open Air Box. 1.25 Learning Zone. 6.45 Open University.

BBC Prime

Intelsat

7.00am World News. 7.25 Weather. 7.30 Melvin and Maureen. 7.55 Blue Peter. 8.10 Beebies. 8.45 Ready, Steady, Cook. 9.15 Style Challenge. 9.40 Change That. 10.05 Kilroy. 10.45 EastEnders. 11.15 Top of the Pops. 12.00 Rhodes Around Britain. 12.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. 1.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook. 1.30 Change That. 1.55 Weather. 2.00 Wildlife. 2.30 EastEnders. 3.00 Kilroy. 3.40 Style Challenge. 4.05 Weather. 4.10 Hot Chefs. 4.30 Melvin and Maureen's Music-a-Grams. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Beebies. 5.50 Wildlife. 6.00 World News. 6.25 Weather. 6.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. 7.00 EastEnders. 7.30 The Victorian Flower Garden. 8.00 Waiting for God. 8.30 Dad. 9.00 Obsession: A Bowl in the Arctic. 11.45 Liberaces. 12.00 Silent Witness. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 Lyn Marshall's Everyday Yoga. 1.30 Look Ahead. 2.00 Revista. 2.30 2.45 Spanish Globo. 2.55 Intelsat. 2.58 Spanish Globo. 3.00 The Business Programme. 3.45 Twenty Steps to Better Management. 4.00 Breathe of Life. 4.30 Cyber Art. 4.50 Animated English. 5.00 Culture of the Waltzes. 5.30 The Emperor's Gift. 6.00 Numbertime 1-10.

BBC World

Intelsat

7.00am World News and Weather. 7.30 World Living: Holiday. 8.00 World News and Weather. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 World News and Weather. 9.30 World Focus: Reporters. 10.00 World News and Weather. 10.30 Hardtalk. 11.00 World News and Weather. 11.30 World Living: Future Fantastic. 12.00 The World Today. 12.30 World City Guides. 1.00 The World Today. 1.30 World Focus: Reporters. 2.00 World News. 2.15 World Business Report and Weather. 2.30 The World Today. 3.30 World Living: The Rat. 4.00 World City Guides. 4.00 World News and Weather. 4.30 Hard Talk. 5.00 World News and Weather. 5.30 World Living: Reporters. 6.00 World News and Weather. 6.30 World Living: Holiday. 6.55 World City Guides. 7.00 The World Today. 8.30 Hard Talk. 9.00 World News and Weather. 9.30 World Focus: The Money Programme. 10.00 World News. 10.10 World Business Report and Weather. 10.30 World Living: Top Gear. 11.00 World News. 11.10 Europe Direct. 12.00 World News and Weather. 12.30 World Business Report. 12.45 Asia Today and Weather. 12.58 World City Guides. 1.00 World News and Weather. 1.30 World Living: Holiday. 2.00 News and Weather. 2.30 Asia Today. 2.45 World Business Report. 2.55 World City Guides. 3.00 News and Weather. 3.30 USA Direct. 4.00 News and Weather. 4.30 Asia Today. 4.45 World Business Report. 5.00 News and Weather. 5.30 USA Direct. 6.00 News and Weather. 6.30 World Focus: The Money Programme. 6.55 World City Guides.

Radio 4

92.4-94.6 MHz; 198 kHz (1514)

7.00am Today. 9.30 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament. 10.00 Midweek. 10.45 (LW) Daily Service. 10.48 (FM) Serial: The Unknown Maltese. 11.00 Woman's Hour. 12.00 Live Luggage. 12.30 Fanny Bones. 1.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 1.02 News. 1.05 You and Yours. 2.00 The World at One. 2.30 Woolly Wits. 3.00 The Archers. 3.15 Afternoon Play: Real Women. 4.00 Gardeners' Question Time. 4.30 Jarrow is Gro. 4.45 Escaping the Sky. 5.00 Case Notes. 5.30 Thinking Allowed. 6.00 PM. 7.00 News. 7.30 Below Hannah's All Classical Music Explained. 8.00 The Archers. 8.15 Front Row. 8.45 Letters from a Lost Generation. 9.00 The Moral Maze. 9.45 Colloquies: Four Talks by Thomas Lynch. 10.00 Evolution After Darwin. 10.30 Midweek. 11.00 The World Tonight. 11.45 Book at Bedtime: Captain Corelli's Mandolin. 12.00 Late Night on 4: Five Squeezy Pieces. 12.30 Today in Parliament. 12.30 (FM) Radio Shiftwork. 1.00 News. 1.30 The Late Book: News of a Kidnapping. 1.45 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 As World Service. 2.30 World News. 2.35 Shipping Forecast. 2.40 Inshore Forecast. 2.45 Prayer for the Day. 2.47 Farming Today.

BBC World Service

BBC World Service can be received in England on MW 648 kHz (463m) and in Western Europe on LW 198 kHz (1515m)

7.30am Sports International. 8.00 News. 8.15 Off the Shelf: Tales from Ovid. 8.30 Meridian Live. 9.00 News. 9.10 Prizes for Thought. 9.35 Westway. 9.30 Everyman. 10.00 News; (FM only) News in German. 10.05 World Business Report. 10.45 The Reading World. 10.50 Radio Theatre. 11.00 News. 11.05 Sports Round-Up. 11.50 Newsdesk. 12.00 On-The-Hour. 12.00 News. 12.30 Sports International. 1.00 News. 1.09 World Business Report. 1.30 Britain Today. 1.50 Inside Story. 1.45 Sports Round-Up. 2.00 Europe Today. 2.30 World Business Report. 2.45 Sports Round-Up. 3.00 Outlook. 3.30 Europe Direct. 4.00 News; (FM only) News in German. 4.05 Britain Today. 4.30 Europe Today. 4.50 World Business Report. 5.00 Sports Round-Up. 5.30 Newsdesk. 7.00 The World; (FM only) News in German. 7.05 News Summary. 7.45 Outlook. 8.00 Focus On Europe. 8.30 Sports Report. 9.00 News. 9.05 World Business Report. 9.30 News. 9.45 World Business Report. 10.00 Britain Today. 10.30 On Record. 11.00 Newsdesk. 11.30 Insight. 11.45 Sports Round-Up. 12.00 News. 12.30 Outlook. 12.45 Britain Today. 1.00 From Our Own Correspondent. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Crossbow. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 Meridian Radio. 4.00 News. 4.05 World Business Report. 4.45 Sports Round-Up. 4.50 Britain Today. 5.00 The World Today. 6.00 The World Today.

Sky Premier

Astra

7.00 Let Me Call You Sweetheart. 8.55 A Stranger to Love. 11.00 Larger Than Life. 1.00 Let Me Call You Sweetheart. 3.00 The Christmas Candle Miracle. 4.55 A Stranger to Love. 7.00 Larger Than Life. 9.00 Barry Norman's Film Night. 9.05 Film Money. 11.00 The Slimmer Man. 12.35 Heat. 2.30 Lord of Illusions. 4.25 The Christmas Candle Miracle.

Sky Movies Plus

Astra

7.00 Invisible Dad. 8.30 Murder She Wrote: South by Southwest. 10.10 Dunston Checks In. 12.00 Medusa. 1.00 Invisible Dad. 2.40 The Last Best Year. 6.00 Murder She Wrote: South By Southwest. 8.00 Dunston Checks In. 10.00 Too Close to Home. 12.00 Deadly Heroes. 1.40 Head of the Family. 3.10 Unlikely Suspects. 4.40 You Talkin' To Me?

Sky Cinema

Astra

2.00 Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Code. 6.00 Hollywood Hall of Fame: Fred Astaire. 7.00 Sink the Bismarck! 9.00 Under the Volcano. 11.00 The Big Sky. 1.00 All the Right Moves. 2.50 Red Line 7000. 4.30 Hollywood Hall of Fame: Fred Astaire. 4.55 3.10 to Yuma.

Sky Sports

Astra

8.00 Sports Centre. 8.15 WWF: Live Wire. 8.15 Sports Centre. 9.30 Racing News. 10.00 Aerobics. 10.30 Footballers' Football Show. 11.00 Inside Scottish Football. 11.30 Festival. 1.00 Aerobics. 1.30 Golf. 2.30 Showjumping: Spruce Meadows Horse Diaries. 3.30 V-Max. 4.00 Inside Scottish Football. 4.30 Footballers' Football Show. 5.00 WWF: Shotgun. 7.00 Sports Centre. 7.30 Unbelievable Sports. 8.00 Pool: World Masters. 9.00 Boxing. 10.00 Unbelievable Sports. 11.00 Sports Centre. 11.15 Pool: World Masters. 12.15 Golf. 12.45 Sports Centre. 1.00 Boxing. 2.30 Unbelievable Sports. 3.00 Pool. 4.00 Sports Centre. 4.15 Close.

Sky Sports 3

Astra

1.00 WWF Wrestling: Shotgun. 2.00 Fish TV. 5.00 Boxing. 6.00 Sportsdesk. 6.30 Cricket: Super Max 6s. 8.30 Rugby: Corrie Cup Final. 8.00 Fish TV. 9.00 Cricket: Super Max 8s. 11.00 Olympics. 11.00 Best of All Time: Pound for Pound Boxer. 12.00 Close.

Eurosport

Astra/Intelsat

6.30 Football: Uefa Cup. 10.00 Motorsport: NASCAR Winston Cup Series. 11.30 Football: Uefa Cup. 1.30 Tennis. 2.00 Tennis: Paris Open – Live. 5.00 Ten-Pin Bowling: Golden Tenpin. 10.30 Darts. 11.30 Motorsport. 12.00 Motorsport: FIA GT Championship. 1.00 Close.

Sky 1

Astra

5.00 The Simpsons. 5.30 Chris Evans Breakfast Show. 9.30 Hollywood Squares. 10.00 Cullyd (1.00 Sally Jessy Raphael. 12.00 Oprah Winfrey. 1.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show. 1.55 Special K Collection. 2.00 Days of Our Lives. 2.55 Special K Collection. 3.00 Sally Jessy Raphael. 3.55 Special K Collection. 4.00 Jenny Jones. 4.55 Special K Collection. 5.00 Cullyd 6.00 Star Trek: DS9. 7.00 Married... With Children. 7.30 Friends. 8.00 The Simpsons. 8.30 Real TV. 9.00 Stargate SG-1. 10.00 The X Files. 11.00 Millennium. 12.00 Friends. 12.30 Star Trek: DS9. 1.30 Renegade. 2.30 Long Play.

National Geographic

Astra

5.00 Cold Water, Warm Blood. 9.00 Beating the Blizzards. 9.30 Life on the Line. 10.00 Passionate People: Once People. 11.00 Photographers and Film Makers. 11.30 Whale Hunters. 12.30 Cape Fishermen. 12.30 World of Water. 1.00 Search for the Battleship Bismarck. 2.00 Close.

UK Gold

Astra

8.00 Crossroads. 8.30 Neighbours. 8.55 EastEnders. 9.30 The Bill. 10.00 The Bill. 10.30 Bergerac. 11.25 Angels. 12.00 Dallas. 12.55 Neighbours. 1.25 EastEnders. 2.00 Juliet Bravo. 3.00 Dallas. 3.55 The Bill. 4.25 The Bill. 4.55 Bergerac. 5.55 EastEnders. 6.30 Angels. 7.00 Bus Stops. 8.00 Last of the Summer Wine. 8.40 Ever Decreasing Circles. 9.20 Open All Hours. 10.00 Dye Foot in the Grave. 10.40 Hamish Macbeth. 11.45 Friends and Readers. 12.30 The Bill. 12.55 The Bill. 1.25 The Chief. 2.20 Middlemarch. 3.20 The Gingerbread Girl. 3.45 Shopping.

Discovery

Astra/Intelsat

2.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing World. 2.30 Wheel Nuts. 3.00 Red Flights. 3.30 Time Travellers. 7.00 Zoo Story. 7.30 Wild Discovery: Amphibians. 8.00 Wild Discovery: Amphibians. 8.30 Ultra Science: Mosquito Wars. 9.00 How Did They Build That. 9.30 Animal X. 10.00 The Unexplained. 11.00 Final Playing with Fire. 12.00 Real Lives: Birth of a Salesman. 1.00 Deep Sea, Deep Secrets. 2.00 First Flights. 2.30 Wheel Nuts. 3.00 Close.

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G2 EUROPE

Real Lives
What does your choice of partner say about you?
4

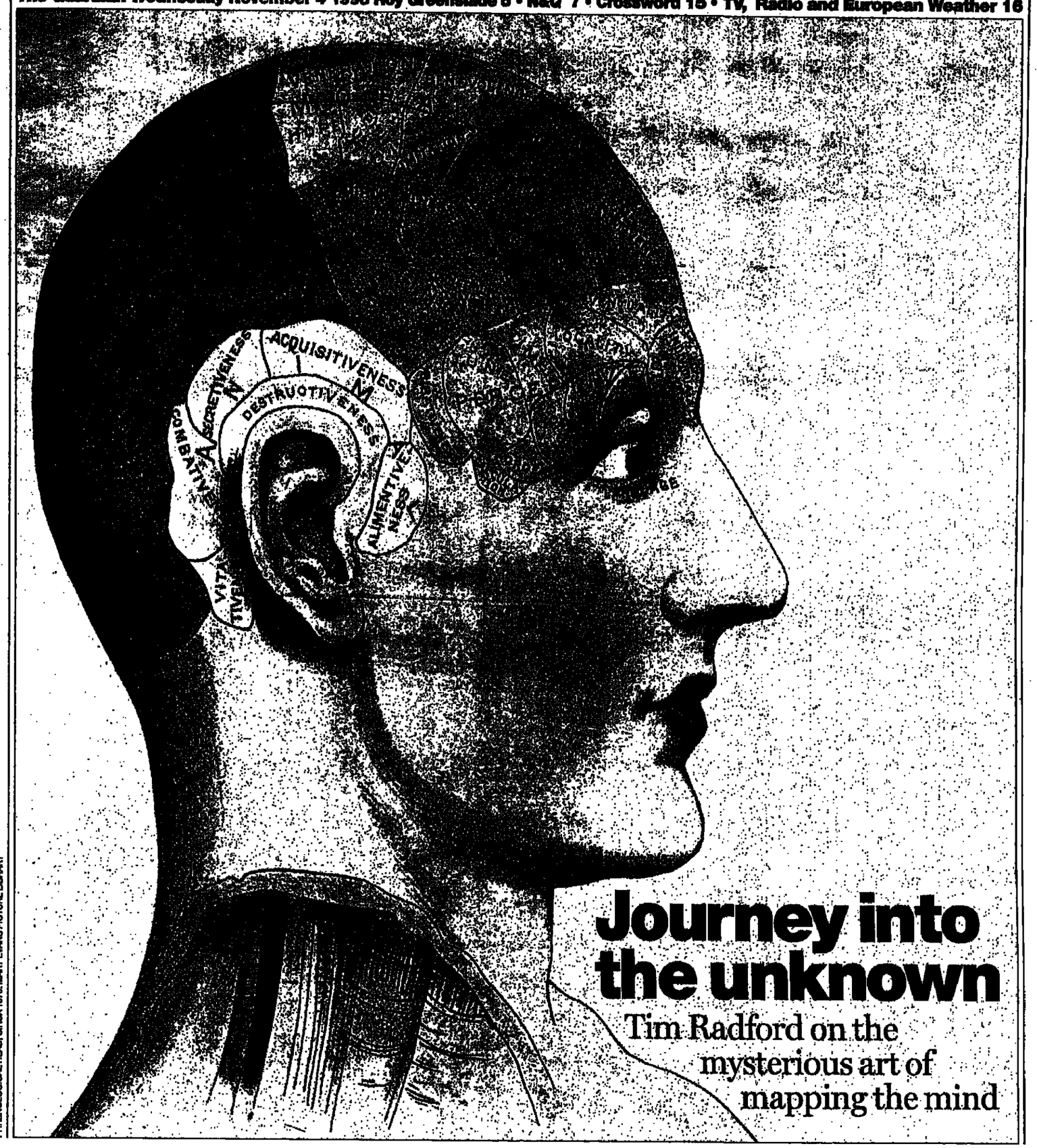
Parents
How to tell the kids you're on drugs
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Arts
What force drives politicians up the greasy pole?
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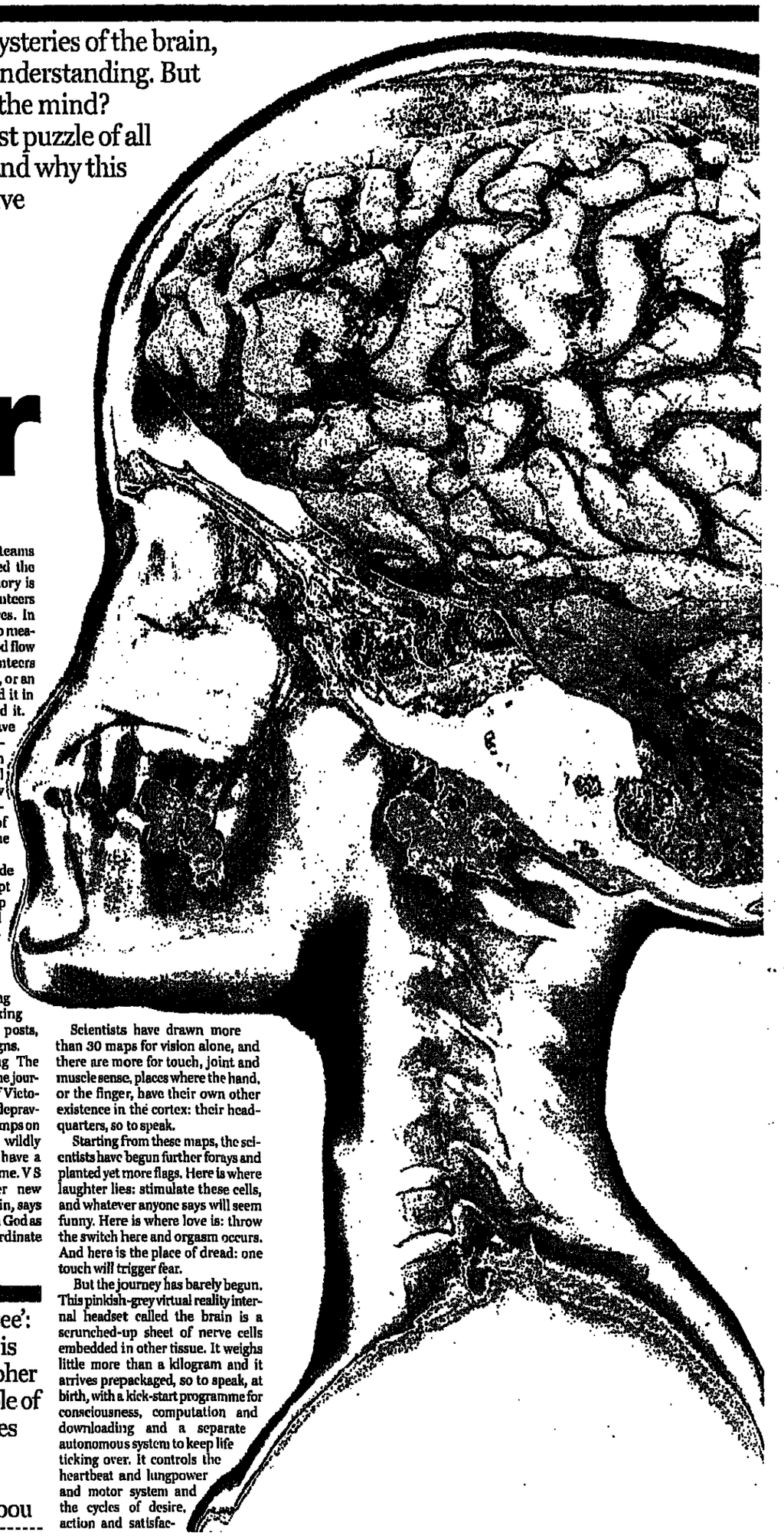


Journey into the unknown

Tim Radford on the mysterious art of mapping the mind

Scientists are slowly unlocking the mysteries of the brain, the mega-computer that powers all understanding. But what do we know about its software, the mind? **Tim Radford** reveals how the biggest puzzle of all is beginning to surrender its secrets and why this could dramatically alter the way we live

Brain teaser



One British neuroscientist would like to talk to a patient in a coma. He believes the patient might not be in a persistent vegetative state: he might be sentient, but cruelly trapped by paralysis, by a decoupling of brain and muscle, separated from the world as if imprisoned in a cube of glass. But even if the man inside that helpless body cannot lift a finger, he could think about lifting a finger.

That would be enough. Bits of the body "map" to bits of the brain. So the left index finger has its own place in the cerebral cortex and so do (for example) both lips and the digits of the other hand. The doctor would say, "If you can hear me, think about lifting your left index finger", and if there was a sudden burst of electrical activity in the right place in the brain, that would be as good as the word yes: then, for the first time, he argues, *you could begin to talk to a living soul* trapped in an all-but-dead body. You could read a mind.

Dramatic ideas like that used to be called brainwaves. Not any more. Neuroscientists no longer have brainwaves, they read them. Volunteer paraplegics with transponders in their brain tissue have learned to "think" instructions on to a computer screen. Researchers have "mapped" the place in the brain for perfect pitch in musicians. With help from sophisticated brain-scanners, an Anglo-American team has tuned in to that strange secret spot in the brain where schizophrenics "hear" the voices that torment them.

Researchers claim to have found a difference between the brains of transsexuals and other males; between homosexuals and others. Doctors have begun to understand the strange dislocations in the brain after a stroke, or in cases of Tourette's Syndrome, or in epilepsy. The brain, like the rest of the body, is a machine, a kind of neural network running on electrical signals modulated by whole suites of chemical transmitters and receptors. Drugs researchers have begun to understand why people reach for marijuana, or nicotine — and because of what they learned, people with Parkinson's disease, or Alzheimer's might be helped.

And two US university teams claim that they have captured the magic moment when a memory is born. One of them tested volunteers with words, one with pictures. In each case, they used scanners to measure electrical activity and blood flow in the split-second the volunteers were confronted with an idea, or an image, and then either stored it in long-term memory, or junked it. "This is the first time we have been able to peer inside someone's brain and predict, on average, whether they will remember what they are now experiencing," said one scientist. "Now we can see areas of the brain as they go about the process of memorisation."

It is the International Decade of the Brain, a declared attempt to scale the greatest peak, map the last frontier, to understand the instrument that encompasses and facilitates all *understanding*. With new tools and new ways of thinking the scientists are exploring this mysterious world, making maps, establishing survey posts, blazing trails, marking waysigns.

In a new book, Mapping The Mind, Rita Carter compares the journey to the mad adventures of Victorian phrenologists, who read depravity or divine inspiration in bumps on the cranium. They were wildly wrong, but the brain does have a working geography all the same. V S Ramachandran, in another new book, Phantoms Of The Brain, says that neurologists would claim God as a cartographer, with an inordinate fondness for maps.

> The eyes do not 'see': the brain does. It is the cinematographer that takes a jumble of light and organises the information into cricket ball, catacomb or caribou

Scientists have drawn more than 30 maps for vision alone, and there are more for touch, joint and muscle sense, places where the hand, or the finger, have their own other existence in the cortex: their headquarters, so to speak.

Starting from these maps, the scientists have begun further forays and planted yet more flags. Here is where laughter lies: stimulate these cells, and whatever anyone says will seem funny. Here is where love is: throw the switch here and orgasm occurs. And here is the place of dread: one touch will trigger fear.

But the journey has barely begun. This pinkish-grey virtual reality internal headset called the brain is a scrunched-up sheet of nerve cells embedded in other tissue. It weighs little more than a kilogram and it arrives prepackaged, so to speak, at birth, with a kick-start programme for consciousness, computation and downloading and a separate autonomous system to keep life ticking over. It controls the heartbeat and lungpower and motor system and the cycles of desire, action and satisfac-

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SERVICE MANAGERS ADULT SERVICES

BEST VALUE IN ACTION

Hay 8 £35,148 - £38,658

Warwickshire County Council, including the Social Services Department, has been selected as a pilot site for the Government's Best Value initiative. As part of our approach, and following extensive consultation with staff, we are further strengthening our strategic and operational management capability, through the appointment of additional Service Managers across the County. You will be responsible for the management of a range of Adult teams and service units for a geographical district and will be expected to contribute to strategic work through a specific lead responsibility role countywide.

We are looking for experienced, professionally qualified (CQSW or OT qualification) managers with a proven track record of innovation, multi-agency collaboration and managing people to arrange and deliver high quality, cost effective services to the public. You will be a self-motivated team player with a high level of interpersonal and negotiation skills who is able to help us achieve our vision and objectives against a backdrop of rapid change, uncertainty and scarce resources.

The County encompasses a number of different communities, and we seek to ensure our services are equally accessible to, and that its workforce is representative of, all these communities. We therefore positively welcome applications from black and ethnic minority communities and disabled people, as they are currently under represented within the current management structure.

- **Further details and application forms are available from Personnel Services Manager, Social Services Department, 8-16 Russell Street, Leamington Spa, CV32 5QA. Tel: (01926) 420278 (24 hour answerphone).**

Blind applicants may request further details on audio tape by telephoning the above number. Deaf applicants may use our Minicom (01926) 413891.

Closing date: 20th November 1998.

• Open to Job Share

Warwickshire County Council

http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk

LIBRARIES & HERITAGE

COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIST

Warwickshire Museum Service, Warwick

£21,924 - £23,958 pa (Open to Job Share)

To lead and manage the County's archaeological service and staff. Responsibilities include archaeological policy and promotion, the Sites and Monuments Record, planning advice and archaeological projects. You must have at least 5 years' relevant experience, including staff and budget management.

- **Application forms are available from Management Services, Libraries & Heritage, Barrack Street, Warwick, CV34 4TH or Tel: (01926) 412963.**

Closing date: 24th November 1998.

Warwickshire County Council

http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk

POLICY & COMMUNITY

DIRECTOR

Salary: £51,500 - £56,650 per annum

To meet the new challenges facing local government, the Council is reviewing its political and management processes. This has led to the creation of this post.

The management of the authority will be led by a Board comprising the Chief Executive and three Directors who will also have functional responsibility for Policy & Community, Resources and Services.

The Policy & Community Director will lead a function responsible for policy and research and the co-ordination of corporate projects. This will include the preparation of the Local Plan, the development of new ways of working with the community and the pursuit of Best Value.

We are looking for someone with drive and enthusiasm, used to working at a senior level in an organisation. You will contribute to the overall direction of the authority and establish a new grouping of activities as one of the principal drivers of change in the authority.

For further information and application form please contact Janet Mathews on 01462 474278 (24 hours), (minicom 01462 474587) or write to the Chief Executive's Office, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, SG6 3JF.

Please note that we do not accept CVs.

Closing date for applications: 25th November 1998. Interviews will be held on 14th and 15th December 1998.

NHDC

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

As a Council committed to equality of opportunity we welcome applications from all sections of the community.

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PART-TIME (MATERNITY COVER)

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For further details and an application form
Phone: 0171 209 2340 Fax: 0171 284 3209
e-mail: retail@jobtrain.foroe8.co.uk
Closing date for applications: 02/12/98

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for one-to-one supervision of volunteer mediators

£35 per 1 hour session, guaranteed minimum of 20 sessions over 1 year.

Closing date: 20/11/98
Tel: 0181 5685522 Fax: 0181 5685566

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Assistant Campaigners

£17,489 - London

You will need knowledge of the issues and the ability to apply this effectively through:

- empowering communities and activists to achieve national campaign objectives
- developing contacts and communicating effectively with the media, government, industry and the public.

The Atmosphere and Transport team works to change Britain's transport policies. Current campaigns include fighting greenfield housing, pressing for traffic reduction and raising awareness about the effects of air travel. (Ref: ACAT)

The Biodiversity and Habitats campaign works to protect the world's old growth forests and the UK's best wildlife areas. (Ref: ACBH)

For further information and to apply, please send an SAE with 39p postage, quoting the appropriate reference to: Personnel, Friends of the Earth, 26-28 Underwood Street, N1 7JQ.

If you are interested in volunteering at our London office, please send an A4 SAE to the above address quoting Ref: VOL.

Closing date: 24th November 1998.

Check out our website at www.foe.co.uk

FOE is striving to be an equal opportunities employer.

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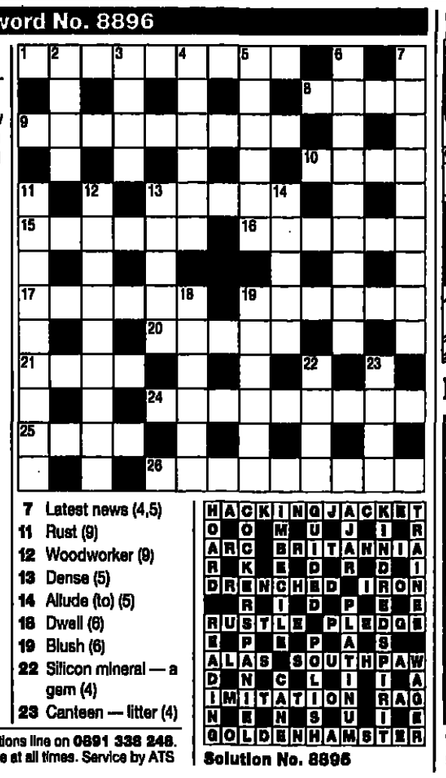
Quick Crossword No. 8896

Across

1 Chivalrousness — bravery (9)
8 Sandpiper — bow — in a tangle? (4)
9 Forgotten — mad (3,2,4)
10 Profound — sea (4)
13 Cut (5)
15 Speechifier (6)
16 Harvester (6)
17 Mend (6)
19 Alcove (6)
20 Dissuade (5)
21 Transmit (4)
24 Rollercoaster — The Plough, to Americans (3,6)
25 Finished — in a superior position (4)
26 Very poor (9)

Down

2 Adjoin (4)
3 It makes cloth — appear indistinct (4)
4 Figure (5)
5 Track — athlete (5)
6 Translate (9)
7 Latest news (4,5)
11 Rust (9)
12 Woodworker (9)
13 Dense (5)
14 Allude (to) (5)
18 Dwell (6)
19 Blush (6)
22 Silicon mineral — a gem (4)
23 Canteen — litter (4)



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DNCLIIA
IMITATION RAG
NENSUIE
GOLDENHAMSTER

Solution No. 8896

Boom and Bust by David Shenton



Doonesbury BY GARRY TRUDEAU



To order any three of The Guardian Quick Crossword Books (vols 1-5), freephone 0500 600 102 or send a cheque for £13.95 (inc UK p&p) payable to Guardian CultureShop, 250 Western Avenue, London W3 6EE.

Job Opportunities in Newham



LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Head of Library Service

Up to £39,200

Please quote ref: 24845

We are looking for an exceptional person with the vision, drive, skills and experience to lead and develop our Library Service; someone who will shape its future so that it becomes best in class and fit for the challenges of the 21st Century.

The Borough of Newham is changing; undergoing and experiencing the most exciting period in its history. Our commitment to change is acknowledged and the whole council is now one of the Government's Best Value Pilot. The Council's vision is to make the borough a place where people want to live, work and stay. To enable the Library Service to play its part, we have ambitious plans and our aim is to bring about significant improvement to provide the high quality service the people of Newham want and deserve.

To succeed in this important, demanding and challenging role, you will be a dynamic and experienced senior manager with a background in library service operations and developments. You will also be:

- a radical thinker with a track record of successful service development
- committed to the provision of value for money services
- a skilled, effective agent for change with a track record in achieving it
- commercially aware and customer focused
- a strong leader with excellent management and motivational skills

Added to this, you must have first class communication and analytical skills, together with the ability to identify and implement opportunities for service development and partnerships.

If you are up to the challenge, please call us for a recruitment pack.

Closing date: 23rd November 1998 at 9.00am.

A minicom facility is available on 0181 472 1430 ext. 21881 (Monday-Friday 9.00am-8.00pm)

Apply to address no. 10.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT

Legal Services Division

Newham Legal Services, an ISO 9001 Quality Accredited service; The Lawyer/HIFAL Public Sector Legal Team of 1998 and one of Newham Council's Best Value pilot services. We are looking to strengthen our team of lawyers by engaging the following high calibre staff to join the team:

Deputy Head of Legal Services

up to £47,693 p.a. inc. pay supplement

Please quote ref: 11840

A dynamic solicitor or barrister with expertise in planning and other general law relevant to local government required.

You will need to have extensive legal and management experience.

Your primary role will be to manage the property services section, deputise for the Head of Legal Services, promote quality initiatives, participate in marketing the legal service and ensure delivery of high quality service to Clients.

Assistant Solicitor - 2 Posts

up to £31,400 p.a. inc. pay supplement

Please quote ref: 11740 - Housing Team,
11741 - Litigation Team

A solicitor or barrister with knowledge of civil and criminal law required. There will be one post in the Litigation team and another in the Housing team.

For the Housing post you will deal with a wide range of housing law work, contract disputes and employment including general advice.

For the Litigation post you will deal with prosecutions, a range of contentious and non-contentious civil matters including contract disputes, commercial landlord and tenant and employment cases.

Experience of advocacy is essential for both posts. The postholder will have supervisory responsibilities.

Assistant Solicitor

up to £28,400 p.a. inc. (Temporary for up to 2 years)

Please quote ref: 17584

A solicitor or barrister with knowledge and experience of contract and general and commercial litigation work required.

You will be required to deal with a range of work including contract matters, preparation and approval of contracts, contract disputes, advising on compulsory competitive tendering, EC Procurement and Best Value.

Senior Conveyancing Assistant

up to £27,500 p.a. inc. pay supplement

Please quote ref: 11696

A solicitor, barrister or Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives or equivalent training/experience is required to make an effective contribution to the Conveyancing team.

Extensive experience of dealing with residential and commercial conveyancing required.

Trainee Solicitor

up to £16,200 p.a. inc.
(Two year Fixed Term Contract)

Please quote ref: 11703

Have you completed your Legal Practice Course and are you actively seeking a training contract? Look no further!

We are looking for a trainee with a 2:1 degree and enthusiasm to gain legal experience in local government. The work is diverse and there will be an opportunity to gain experience in the Social Services, Housing, General Litigation, Planning and Conveyancing teams.

Closing date for all posts: 27th November 1998
Shortlisting: Week commencing 30th November 1998
Interviews: Week commencing 7th December 1998

Apply to address no. 8.

HOW TO APPLY

For further details and an application form for the above posts please reply to the Personnel Section at the appropriate address given below. Please remember to quote the reference number shown for each post.

No. 8. For further details and an application form please reply to the Chief Executive's Department, Departmental Personnel, Room 36, Town Hall, East Ham, London E6 2RP or tel 0181 557 8992 (24 hr answerphone) or e-mail: marva.platt@newham.gov.uk

No. 10. For further details and an application form please reply to the Personnel Section, Leisure Services Department, 292 Barking Road, East Ham, London E6 3BA or tel 0181 557 8729 (24 hr answerphone).

SOMER Community Housing Trust

Technical Services Director £45,000 to £53,000

Bath and North East Somerset

A major new social business

- working in partnership
- earning trust
- setting high expectations
- delivering on promises
- being open and accountable
- empowering people
- challenging convention
- being a good employer
- committing to equality of opportunity
- managing resources well
- creating sustainable solutions

The tenants and leaseholders of Bath & North East Somerset Council have voted for their homes to be transferred to a new, not-for-profit landlord, Somer Community Housing Trust. With the ability to raise up to £180m of private finance, the Trust will deliver a major repair and improvement programme and be responsible for delivering high quality services to 10,000 households. Committed to involvement and empowerment, the Trust will give priority to working in partnership both with residents and with organisations in the communities it serves.

Our Technical Services Director will be part of the Trust's Executive Management Team. He or she will be responsible for ensuring our major works and repairs programme – over £15m a year in the first ten years – is delivered effectively and efficiently. The post is also responsible for the in-house Direct Labour Organisation and for the development of new homes.

The Trust will be expecting value for money in all its building and technical procurement, and genuine involvement of residents in the design and delivery of the programme. Candidates must therefore show both the technical skill and managerial vision to successfully balance these objectives. They will need to be fully qualified RICS, ARCUK or CIOB with substantial senior management experience including responsibility for major housing refurbishment contracts. Excellent communication skills and a commitment to the Trust's values are also essential.

For an information pack please contact the Trust's advisers:
HACAS Consulting, United House, North Road, London N7 9DP.
Tel: 0171 609 9491 Fax: 0171 700 7599 email: hacas@hacas.co.uk
Closing date for receipt of applications (CVs will not be accepted): 25 November 1998 at 12 noon.

HACAS consulting HOUSING • FINANCE • R&D

UNIVERSITY OF BATH

School of Postgraduate Medicine
Research & Development
Support Unit

Medical Statistician

This is an exciting new post at the Pan-Bath and Swindon RDSU. The successful applicant will work closely with the R&D Support Manager to provide advice and support to a variety of health care professionals in the development, execution and analysis of research projects and clinical trials. You will be expected to take a pro-active role in developing the statistical support service, including the development and execution of an education programme.

The successful applicant will be based in the School of Postgraduate Medicine, University of Bath with strong links to the Department of Mathematical Sciences. You will be expected though to spend at least three days a week in the NHS organisations served by the RDSU and must have your own transport and driving licence.

The successful applicant should have a BSc and at least an MSc in Medical Statistics/Statistics with two or three years' experience preferably in a health related research environment. Outstanding interpersonal, communication, organisational and team working skills are also required.

Informal enquiries should be addressed to Vicky Wood, R & D Support Manager, Wolfson Centre, Royal United Hospital, Bath on (01225) 824116.

Starting salary in the range of £18,000 - £23,000 per annum.

Closing date for applications: 30 November 1998.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Department, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY or 'phone the 24 hour answer-phone service on Bath (01225) 826924 (email H.I.M.Thorburn@bath.ac.uk) quoting reference 98/275.

Working towards Equal Opportunities



Head case . . . most of the brain seen here in this computer-enhanced X-ray is the left hemisphere which houses memory and higher conscious thought processes
SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY



The brain's touch map [left] . . . the area of cortex which registers body touch is wrapped around the cerebrum like an Alice band. The area given over to the genitals is about as large as the rest of the cortex combined. Genitals are at the top

Except that they are not like most of us: they are amputees. They are tormented by pains in limbs that are not there, but which nevertheless have a mysterious existence, in the mind.

But the mind is the problem, the brain's fellow traveller. Think of the brain — anybody's brain, Isaiah Berlin's, Jeffrey Archer's, Patsy Kensit's — as a machine with 100 billion cells, with more possible connections between the neurons than there are atoms in the whole universe, the entire structure an orchestra of neurotransmitters and receptors, humming quietly away for a lifetime, consuming as battery power 20 per cent of the body's energy intake. But within, or parallel with that machine is the mind: a nothing, an entity with no physical presence, the software that converts those chemical impulses, those molecular accretions, those electrical fireworks along the synapses, into a kind of Imax screen on which everything you could possibly know or experience about the world is projected, with an intensity, intimacy, colour and sound that you alone can experience. The mind is an old puzzle that gets no easier with time. How do you even phrase the questions you have about it?

For instance, what is consciousness? "How could an event of neural information processing cause the feel of a toothache or the taste of lemon or the colour purple?" asks Steven Pinker, whose recent blockbuster How The Mind Works appears in paperback in February. "How could I know whether a worm, a robot, a brain slice in a dish, or you are sentient? Is your sensation of red the same as mine, or might it be like my sensation of green? What is it like to be dead?"

Even so, a step at a time, the computer scientists and the psychologists and neuroscientists and pharmacologists are achieving answers. Some of these just throw up more questions: that transcendent, overwhelming religious experience reported by saints and seers through the centuries is also experienced by patients with temporal lobe epilepsy. Some evolutionary psychologists have called a particular part of the brain "the God module", so powerfully is it associated with religious experience. If, as sometimes happens, brain surgeons have to remove part of the temporal lobe, what would that do to a patient's religious urges, asks Ramachandran. "Would he suddenly stop having mystical experiences and become an atheist or an agnostic? Would we have performed a 'Godectomy'?"

But this doesn't mean that the religious urge is merely some evolutionary confidence trick: a handy survival aid wrapped up as altruism and a sense of sacrifice. Rita Carter points out that if God did exist He would certainly have provided a biological mechanism with which to apprehend Him. And Ramachandran wonders why the seizures take that particular form? "Why don't these patients hallucinate pigs or donkeys?" he asks.

These are not idle questions: a new kind of brainwashing could be on the way. Nearly all this new understanding of the brain as a highly complicated set of electrochemical processes began with troubled, tortured patients and desperate families in clinics, hospitals and consulting rooms. As a result there are already new treatments for old scourges like manic depression and agoraphobia. There are also new "lifestyle" drugs such as Prozac for the troubled and anxious, and soon, a whole new suite of "smart drugs" designed to help the failing memories and fading intellects of old age. Both the smart drugs and the lifestyle pills are likely to become widely available and eagerly exploited: who wants to fail exams? Who wants to be worried and troubled when happiness is there in a handy blister-pack?

But a science that understands the chemistry of happiness, will also understand the nervous machinery of fear, the triggers of terror and dread. It could offer new ways of controlling dissidents and placating populations. Aldous Huxley's novel Brave New World begins to look even more prescient.

Steven Rose, whose book Lifelines is newly out in Penguin paperback, is a British biologist who has devoted his working life to studying what happens when a memory is made. He thinks there is a long way to go before humans can look at the human brain as a whole, rather than puzzle over little bits of it. "We lack a theory of the brain, we lack a theory of mind, and we lack a theory of the relationship between them," he says. "I think the other thing we have to understand is that the brain may be a thing but the mind isn't. Mind is what brains do: mind is a verb. It is active, and not a thing."

Susan Greenfield, the Oxford professor of pharmacology whose book The Human Brain: A Guided Tour (Phoenix) recently reached the top 50 paperbacks, thinks the mind will keep its ultimate secrets. "It's very hard to know what someone is actually feeling. Suppose you could mind-read, suppose it was possible. You might know the name of their pet dog, you might know that they don't like somebody, even if they hadn't told you. What you wouldn't know is how somebody felt, you wouldn't share their consciousness with them."

Steven Rose, Rita Carter and others will take part in a symposium called Mapping The Mind at the Royal Institution in Albemarle Street, London, on November 10. Tickets from the Institute of Contemporary Arts (0171 930 3647)

Read on...

In print

Mapping The Mind, by Rita Carter, (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25).Hot off the press, the most-up-to-date overview of research so far

Phantoms In The Brain: Human Nature And The Architecture Of The Mind, by VS Ramachandran and Sandra Blakeslee (Fourth Estate, £17.99). Medical detective story which takes its starting point from the phenomena of phantom limbs and phantom pregnancies

How The Mind Works, by Steven Pinker (Allen Lane, £25; Penguin paperback in February, £9.99). Contentious and enormous fun

The Human Brain: A Guided Tour, by Susan Greenfield (Phoenix, £6.99). The brain made simple, by the new director of the Royal Institution

Impossible Minds: My Neurons, My Consciousness, by Igor Aleksander (Imperial College, £10). An engineer's exploration of the perplexities of artificial intelligence

Pass notes

No 1301

Corporate Christ



Not another How-To Make Friends And Influence People book? Well, yes . . . but this indispensable guide to promotion has God on its side.

And here's me thinking Christianity was about compassion and forgiveness. Wake up! This is the dog-eat-dog world of business, no time for all that spiritual life-after-death stuff.

Excuse me? Okay, so Jesus did some good works for the poor, died for our sins, blah blah. The real message from the gospels is the example he set to the business manager of the late 20th century.

I don't follow you. He achieved his goals, built awareness of his message, turned ordinary men into a crack sales team of disciples . . .

According to whom? Andrew Finan, author of Corporate Christ, a marketing man's interpretation of the New Testament.

And he thinks the life of Jesus is about cheesy soundbites designed to motivate spotty sales reps? I sense some negativity here. I think you could learn a lesson from the life of our Lord, who himself suffered rejection on many occasions. He advised his sales team to dust themselves off and get on with the job: "And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet." (Matthew 10:13-14)

Okay then, what's the message of The Last Supper? It was a textbook, high-profile PR move. With his fame at an all-time high, Jesus was cashing in his chips when the time was right.

So, what else? The sermon on the mount — an example of the importance of visibility and a simple manifesto.

The importance of John the Baptist? "Use celebrity endorsements to create credibility."

Most likely to say: "Politically, Jesus positioned himself as a moderator who brought legitimate and timely change . . . In the UK, Prime Minister Tony Blair achieved a similar feat with the Labour Party." (Corporate Christ, p121)

Least likely to say: "And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers . . ." (Matthew 21.12)

Are you a Pass Master? http://passnotes.guardian.co.uk

Lives

Tory grandees no longer require prospective MPs to bring proof of suitable running mates, but **Anne Perkins** wonders if we're too hung up on who we're with

Look at me... with her

So Tory wives will no longer be vetted for bun-making and fête-opening skills. As part of its scramble to reinvent itself, the Conservative party's once-legendary selection panels will no longer veto single, would-be MPs on the grounds that their potential scandal quotient is in the red, nor scrutinise the partners who do show to make sure they are simultaneously smart and supportive, unlikely to show up legless at a coffee morning nor topless at the Conference ball.

It is of course a totally politically correct decision. Even the most traditional of employers in areas where the spouse (okay, the wife) has a significant if unpaid role, have abandoned any idea of formal screening of partners: the Foreign Office said crisply last night: "We employ diplomatic officers, not their spouses, and we're looking at their ability to do their jobs."

The Tories are merely, it seems, catching up with the real world. Entirely politically correct, but is it really wise? After all, it seems we often choose our partners to make up for some subconscious lack in our own personalities. According to one Cambridge pyschologist: "Each person in a relationship has a role, and they need to function together."

Sometimes the desire to find a complementary partner is painfully obvious, like Marilyn Monroe's desperation to find a clever man so that people would see that she had a brain too. And sometimes it's just the pleasure of reflected glory. Take celeb couples, such as Dave Beckham and Posh Spice: "He needs her for her world-wide fame, which makes his fame as a footballer more real," says one analyst. "She gets a footballer, when footballers are the new pop stars." The sum is greater than its parts.

Everyone who needs to be famous knows this. The politicians are playing a curious double game, where private lives are officially out of the public domain but where their own wives (it always is wives) are frequently on display, with an acknowledged role to play in enhancing their husbands' profiles. It's a political cliché that the Tory leader's wife, Ffion Hague, could have come from central casting, the perfect wife to endorse the message of the young, energetic leader.

Equally Cherie Blair has been an integral part of the Blair image, in effect telling voters that a successful, highly-paid barrister won't only trust Labour with her vote, but with her future too. After all, she's married it.

Even among humble mortals, your choice of soulmate is sending out a message, even if it's rather harder to say quite what the message is away from the professional image-makers. Social psychologist Dr Marion Tysoe warns: "Partnership choices are so unpredictable, it's so complex, I wouldn't like to draw conclusions from any individual's decision." But we do, we do.

Companies do it too, unofficially. Though, as Fran Wilson of the Institute for Personnel and Development says, "No one would go as far as interviewing partners. What if a same sex partner turned up? You'd be open to all sorts of discriminatory charges."

Even the Foreign Office admits though that people make judgments on the basis of partners: "If any reference appears in an appraisal, such as 'good bloke shame about the wife', it has to be removed." But it's there, isn't it. People are just as relentlessly judged by the long-term co-occupant of their bed as they ever were. Since schmoozing is the key to corporate success, who you take on the schmoozing circuit with you can only help. There are still Stepford Wives, women programmed to support their husbands and the company. It's just that these days a few more of them are husbands.

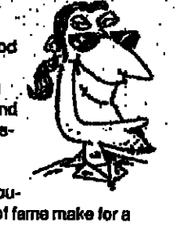
Of course, it never really works quite like that. Tory selection committees were apparently always being introduced to women posing as girlfriends. At least one is now an MP herself. In the last Tory Cabinet, half a dozen wives were toiling in the City and earning more than their husbands. But what would the private, academic Gillian Clarke have done if her husband Ken had been successful in his leadership challenge? Come to that, how would the party have played it? What a relief that result must have been.



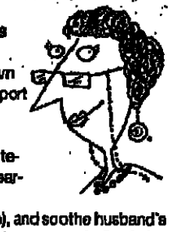
Ffion and William Hague ... partners in the great game

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

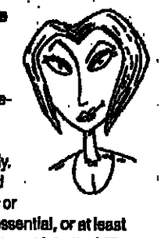
Role models: pen portraits of perfect partners



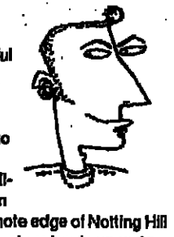
Film star's husband
Must look good in a dinner jacket and be willing to attend endless 'industry' events. It helps to be famous, as double helpings of fame make for a 'power marriage' (see Bruce Willis and Demi Moore). Alternatively, brains can lend *gravitas* (Kristin Scott Thomas, for instance, seems all the more serious an actress for being married to a doctor).



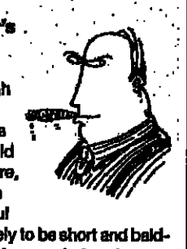
Media academic's wife
Must have own career to support husband's pathetic pay (books and late-night TV appearances don't bring in much), and soothe husband's easily-bruised ego, curse indiscriminately all authors of wounding reviews and maintain belief in unparalleled worth of spouse's work. Must also do all shopping and housework, as husband cannot move from his desk.



Footballer's wife
Anyone who has not been featured 'tastefully' in FHM (semi-nude) need not apply. A background in pop, acting or modelling is essential, or at least enough fame to get into the VIP room at Browns. And forget the white stiletto stereotype: footballers wear Armani now. The wives have a taste for Prada which makes the inevitable move to Rome or Milan much less difficult.



Writer's partner
Needs powerful creative skills, though not in writing, as it would not do to pose a threat, but with an ability to transform tiny flat on remote edge of Notting Hill into something stunning, in expectation of arrival of photographer from Daily Mail. Must on no account keep diary, nor have media contacts, as only one version of relationship breakdown can be allowed.



City banker's husband
Rich and successful enough to share phenomenal costs of 24-hour child and house-care, but not as rich and successful as she is). Likely to be short and balding (good looking men being almost invariably stupid), and clever enough to get one of those little-publicised jobs where the Chancellor of the Exchequer waits for *your* calls.
Anne Perkins

ILLUSTRATIONS BY IAN BENTON/ALISTAIR

global climate change, Guardian writers assess the chances of success and failure

oped countries representing at least 55 per cent of the total 1990 carbon dioxide emissions of the group. Since, in 1990, the US alone was responsible for 25 per cent of the world's emissions, the whole treaty is meaningless unless the US ratify.

There will still be a residual bunch of oil, automobile and heavy industry lobbyists represented by the Climate Change Coalition trying to destroy the Kyoto deal in Buenos Aires, but there will be an increasing number of companies trying to make it work.

There are three main "mechanisms" designed to increase "flexibility and reduce the costs of making emission cuts", which it is hoped will be agreed.

● Joint Implementation: This is where one developed country agrees to modernise or build a power plant in another and claim a carbon credit for for doing the work. On the plus side it is arguable that, dollar for dollar, it is cheaper and will save more carbon dioxide to update an old power station in the Eastern bloc than replace an already efficient station in the US.

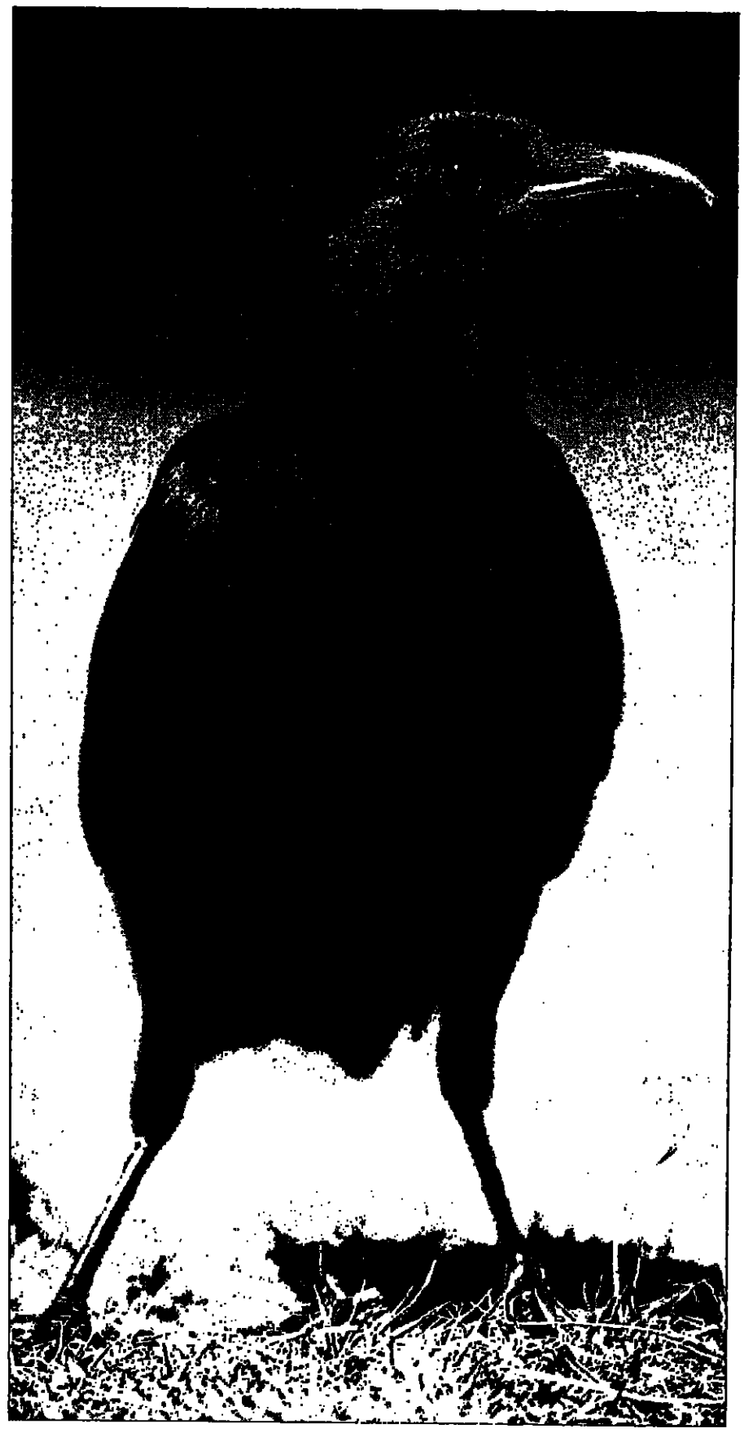
● Clean Development Mechanism: This is technology transfer to the developing world. It allows developed countries to claim a carbon credit for building up-to-date technology in a developing country which would otherwise have built a more polluting power source.

● Emissions Trading: This allows countries that have done well in reducing emissions beyond their legally binding targets to benefit by selling them to countries which have failed to reach theirs. There is deep suspicion about this because Russian and other economies have much lower emissions than in 1990 and so have spare "hot air" to sell without carrying out any measures to reduce greenhouse gases.

A fourth area still to be clarified is "sinks". This is, for example, where forests are planted or allowed to regrow and the carbon fixed in the wood is counted as a credit. This is controversial because the science to calculate the real capture of carbon is not simple and an attempt to reach agreement is likely to be put off until future meetings.

These issues will take up most of the conference. The huge disparity of carbon dioxide emissions between developed countries, (5.4 tonnes per head for the US), and the developing world, (0.3 tonnes per head for India) remain central to the debate. Eventually, contraction of the developed world's emissions converging with the increases in allowances for poorer countries will be the carrot to get the developing world fully involved.

There are two other thorny ones: an examination of whether the Kyoto commitments are adequate; and who will be the policeman and the banker for the aid which will flow to the developing world as a result of the financial assistance promised in the convention. At least there is wide agreement on the last point. No one trusts the World Bank , but so far no other candidates have emerged.
Paul Brown



Letting the (American) crow out of the bag... Ted Hughes (inset, left) wrote poetry that linked the human with the wild vitality of Nature

PHOTOGRAPH: JOE MCDONALD

Take it from the top

Perhaps the name is wrong. "Global warming" may be the most serious environmental problem mankind has ever had to confront, but ask Joe Public to do something positive about preventing it from raging out of control and suddenly there are more pressing matters to worry about.

It is a phenomenon that baffled the Conservative Environment Secretary John Gummer as much as it is fixing the present government. Gummer was convinced by scientific evidence of the awful changes occurring in the earth's climate. Yet, as soon as he began arguing for the imposition of tougher regulations and measures, which might at least slow the trend, he was either ignored or howled down in derision.

Now look at the latest suggestions for at least mitigating its effect. Even during the recent Energy Efficiency Week — and how many people even knew that it was taking place? — John Prescott was derided for suggesting that TVs should be switched off completely rather than left on standby. How columnists giggled over that one.

It's even worse in the international political arena. World leaders were confronted with the harsh realities of global warming earlier this year and seemed determined to take a lead in tackling it. What happened? Political pressure, especially in America, forced a watered-down deal amid pleas of "don't blame me, its my constituents".

On this occasion, the politicians are actually telling the truth. They are ahead of the public, a dangerous place for any democratically-elected politician to be.

But because they have to listen to the feelings of their constituents, they are almost powerless to intervene on the side of the environment. Small, vocal groups are demanding tough action, and want to see much higher taxes on fossil fuels and draconian energy saving measures by law. Factually correct as their arguments may be, they are still regarded by most of the voting public as fringe eco-activists.

Yet, astonishingly, things are getting better. Measures are being taken to reduce carbon emissions and cut energy consumption. And they are being introduced by the one section of society which has, until now, been unfairly demonised by the environment movement — industry and big business.

The World Wide Fund for Nature recognised some years ago that only by getting industry to work with them, would progress be made — a ground-breaking decision that went against the perceived wisdom of the environmental lobby groups.

Cars now use less petrol. Lorries are producing few pollutants. Fridges and washing machines use less energy. Alternative fuels are being developed. Houses are being built to insulation standards undreamed of a decade ago. Factories and offices boast of their energy-efficiency and solar-heating schemes.

As well as the scientists, we should also thank the accountants, who have convinced the men and women at the boardroom table that energy conservation measures affects their profits.

They have been able to explain in their own language — money — that enormous cost savings can be made by using less energy and curbing pollution. Don't let us disparage the reason for the improvement. It really doesn't matter *why* action is taken to combat global warming and climate change — just that it is taken as soon as possible.

If it entails sweet talking and sucking up to big business, then so be it. It is a big step forward. Yet much much more needs to be done. The most difficult problem of all seems to be to convince voters. How can they be persuaded to buy the new energy efficient products now appearing on the market? How can politicians take action against global warming without fear of losing the support of their constituents? Answers to Michael Meacher, Environment Minister.
Harvey Elliott

Society

Eco soundings

[illegible] the Guardian report[illegible] [illegible] in London. [illegible] have received a communique from the BBE: "To the governments, corporations, armies, chefs, bakers, and civil societies of the world. In response to the heroic [illegible] in London, the [illegible] meeting in [illegible] session today, we announced a global campaign in opposition to neo-liberalism, corporate crime and [illegible] economy. The first campaign is called the "Pie Snowball" – a call to arms for revolutionary bakers and pie-slingers across the world. We call for an autonomous, diffuse, and widespread pastry uprising ... we can all throw a pie in the face of fascism."

ALL VERY silly "in yer face" fun, but not as silly as scientists at the world's largest agricultural research network, who focus on feeding the poor, deciding not to develop crops with genetically engineered "terminator genes", which produce sterile seeds. Don't they know Monsanto "Food, health, hope") owns this technology? Don't they know how Monsanto will help feed the world? Doesn't the UN-backed Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, with its network of 16 research centres worldwide, understand the implications of this ridiculous opposition? So who is coming out against Monsanto? Why, silly old Ismail Serageldin, the UN sustainability man who rose to prominence with warnings about water wars.

FIRST the Establishment thought James Lovelock's Gaia theory that compares the Earth to a living organism was silly science. Now it's become respectable and is being being used even by polluting companies claiming that Gaia will heal the wounds they have caused. But can Gaia be both a science and a cultural icon? Richard Dawkins is spiteful and dismissive but let's hope there are more open minds tomorrow evening at the Royal Academy, where critic Joan Leach and philosopher Mary Midgley, with Lord Bragg in the chair, will debate. More details on 0181-849 3496, or e-mail: gaia@ual.ac.uk

AND what could be sillier than BP announcing its intention to merge with Amoco and thinking that it could influence the American group over its global warming policies. Here's Amoco's spokesman Howard Miller: "Amoco has not harmonised its views with BP in regards to the Kyoto Protocol and has no plans to do so." So Amoco remains a member of the Global Climate Coalition which is out in force in Buenos Aires this week trying, again, to prevent any action being taken on global warming.

John Vidal

ENVIRONMENT: As world leaders gather in Buenos Aires to agree on

The gas stops here

Last January, Kyoto was seen as a great leap forward in the fight against global warming. For the first time since the industrial revolution, the developed world agreed to reduce its overall greenhouse gas emissions. It is to be a 5.2 per cent cut before a deadline of between 2008 and 2012. The agreement was seen as a start on the long road to the 60 per cent reductions scientists say we need to save the planet from the worst effects of climate change.

But to get a deal in the chaotic last 48 hours at Kyoto, many issues were fudged. What the US wanted, and got, were measures which meant that it did not have to introduce painful measures to cut energy use at home. US business wanted to be able to use its know-how and dollars to mop up carbon outside its borders and at the same time make money.

At best, this could mean clearing up power stations abroad and claiming some of the credit in carbon saved for the US, at worst simply buying carbon credits from other countries. These might have reduced their greenhouse emissions as a result of hard work and well-thought-out policies, or have some spare because of economic collapse, like the Soviet Union.

Last week, the UK emerged as a likely candidate to receive up to $1 billion dollars from the US for our surplus "hot air" if the Government's plan to reduce our carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent is realised.

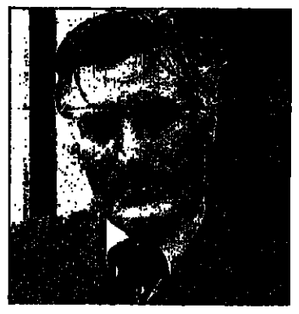
For a country of gas guzzlers and advanced technology, it may seem a shameful way for the US to carry on. But a way must be found next week in Buenos Aires, at the 4th meeting of the 170 countries signed up to the Climate Change Convention, to allow the US to do this if the Kyoto agreement is to be ratified.

Although only 55 nations are needed to ratify to bring the protocol into force, they have to include developed countries responsible for 55 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions in 1990. Without the US, this will be impossible.

WILD LIFE

Ted Hughes celebrated the wild. **Paul Evans** on how his poetry turns the chocolate-box view of Nature on its head

Crow nation



Wandering back last week from Shrewsbury, along the sodden edges of flooded fields in awe of the Severn's reclamation of its rightful plain, a dark shape dropped from the sky onto the verge. For a split second, the kestrel lifted her head from wings cowled over her prey, and at the instant of its death, her eyes looked into mine. This is the moment when Nature stares back into the spirit and shudders it with a savage joy — a moment of pure Ted Hughes.

When my own ideas about Nature were forming, and I was rifling through literature for voices that chimed with my own intuitions, along came this Yorkshire shaman and let the crow out of the bag. The Crow had the authentic voice of his tribe and the awful, irrepressible song of horror and humour. More importantly, Ted Hughes's crow shat on the sensibilities of those for whom Nature was somehow set apart from the world as we live it, to be preserved as chocolate-box landscapes inhabited by cuddly animals. Although I've admired many of Hughes's poems before and since, it was Crow that hit me full-on.

Where did the crow come from? This was his Lineage:

In the beginning was Scream
Who begat Blood
Who begat Eye
Who begat Fear
Who begat Wing
Who begat Bone
Who begat Granite
Who begat Violet
Who begat Guitar
Who begat Sweat
Who begat Adam
Who begat Mary
Who begat God
Who begat Nothing
Who begat Never
Never Never Never
Who begat Crow
Screaming for Blood
Grubs, crusts
Anything
Trembling featherless elbows in the nest's filth

In 1971, Crow was a new mythology, an elemental force, reflecting our own crow-natures, scavenging from bits of other mythologies and the carrion of our intellectual constructions. In 1955, the Welsh poet RS Thomas had described the Welsh landscape as a place with no future, only a past: "an impotent people/ sick with inbreeding/Worrying the carcass of an old song."

Such landscapes are not confined to Wales. Our British belief in cultural landscapes and obsession with heritage, it seemed to me, were dominated by the poetry of Wordsworth, Thomas Hardy and that poor sod John Clare. This resulted in nature conservation becoming a nostalgic politics of loss. But Crow was a mythology both ancient and newly hatched — he would pick the bones of our beliefs and laugh through a grim creation story of his own, with the wild exuberance of real rooks and ravens on a cold windy day.

Those weaned on the chocolate box view of nature thought Hughes's poetry dark and violent, but he held that it was about Nature's vitality and struggle against death. To me, this was a description of the wild — a Nature beyond human governance.

Hughes was articulating wild life and this had a profound influence on my own and others' fledgling notions about our relationship with Nature and conservation.

In some respects, Ted Hughes's animal poetry has led him to become a sort of David Attenborough figure, introducing new generations to creatures we share our environment with. But unlike orthodox natural history, Hughes was not afraid of our cultural relationships with these creatures and revelled in the mythic significance of the commonplace.

Natural history and scientific ecology tries to banish poetic metaphor and replace it with a narrow rationalism. But this only serves to reinforce a specialist view of Nature and fails to capture its significance. This, for example, is ornithology according to Crow, not the RSPB:

When the eagle soared clear
through a dawn distilling of emerald
When the curlew trawled in
seadusk through a chime of wineglasses
When the swallow swooped
through a woman's song in a cavern
And the swift flicked through the
breath of a violet
When the owl sailed clear of
tomorrow's conscience
And the sparrow preened himself
of yesterday's promise
And the heron laboured clear of
the Bessemer upglare
And the bluetit nipped clear of lace
panties
And the woodpecker drummed
clear of the rotovator and the
rose-farm
And the peewit tumbled clear of
the laundromat
While the bullfinch plumped in
the apple bud
And the goldfinch bulbed in the
sun
And the wryneck crooked in the
moon
And the dipper peered from the
dewball
Crow sprawdled head-down in the
beach-garbage, guzzling a
dropped ice-cream

Much later, long after he became Poet Laureate — which I thought at the time was a bit like Elvis joining the army — Hughes, in Winter Pollen, 1994, said that any system of shared understanding of Nature will depend upon a shared mythology.

To him, the natural world and its creatures were universal and timeless: "A hare behaves in much the same way and is dreamed about by human beings all over the earth in much the same terms as it was thousands of years ago when it first appeared in human iconography, or hundreds of thousands of years ago when man first began to hunt and think about it, and as it will behave hundreds of thousands or even millions of years hence, probably long after it has left the human race behind."

Whatever else he did, Ted Hughes had a wild voice, a poetry which linked the human with the wild vitality of Nature. His is a poetic voice which can share that experience, from The Howling Of Wolves:

The wind sweeps through and the
hunched wolf shivers.
It howls you cannot say whether
out of joy or agony.

to The Unknown Wren:

Imminent death only makes the
wren more Wren-like
As harder sunlight, and realler
earth-light.
Wren reigns! Wren is in power
Under his upstart tail.

Nature conservation, wildlife films and the media have seldom captured this wildness. Trapped by science and a more comfortable literature, the orthodox view of Nature is unwilling to admit the dangerous manners of a poetry of the wild. Perhaps it takes death for poets to be listened to. The roots of Ted Hughes's voice are in the land — visceral, muddy, flooded. "My manners," says Hughes's hawk, "are tearing off heads."

Paul Evans is a Guardian country diarist and chair of the British Association of Nature Conservationists.

First person



Roy Greenslade on: a misguided campaign ● Snubs on Sunday ● Don't mention Ron

The wrong arm of the law

So, Ludovic Kennedy has won again. The veteran campaigner against miscarriages of justice yesterday heard that two soldiers he fought for, who were convicted of murder, are to rejoin the army. But this is a sad victory which besmirches Kennedy's otherwise honourable record.

Over the years, he has fought valiantly on behalf of people wrongly convicted such as the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four, poor Timothy Evans and Patrick Meehan. None of those campaigns was initially popular and on each occasion he confronted, and finally beat, an implacable establishment opposition.

This time Kennedy joined the establishment in winning army reinstatement for two Scots Guardsmen, James Fisher and Mark Wright, who murdered an unarmed Catholic teenager, Peter McBride, in Belfast six years ago.

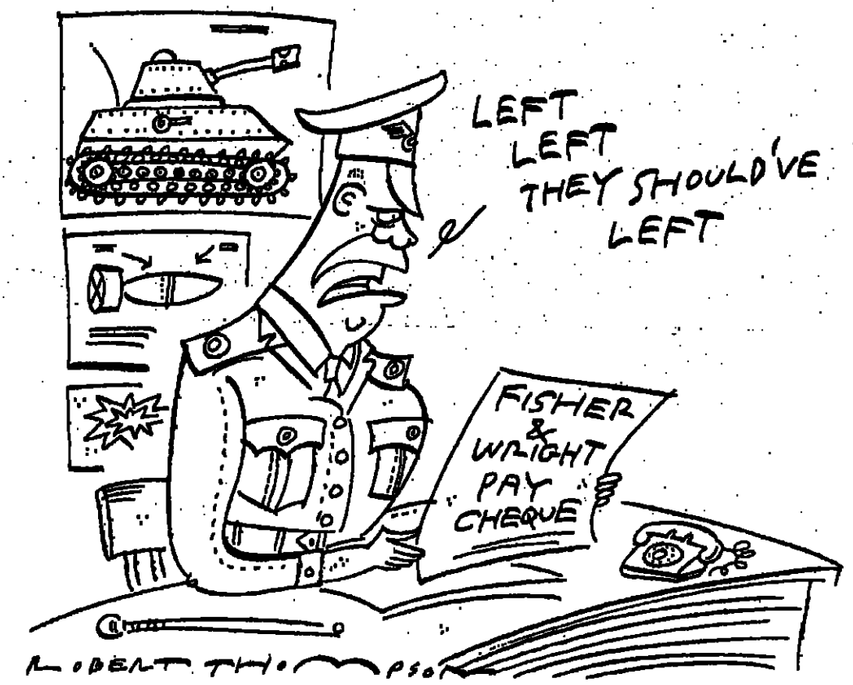
Kennedy thinks their trial was flawed. He believes they were found guilty because the authorities feared republican rioting. He is upset that they spent six years in jail before being released on licence nine weeks ago. He has been a leading figure in the bid to influence the Army Board which has allowed the men to resume their careers with their regiment.

Last week in the Daily Mail, which has also supported the soldiers, Kennedy attacked Northern Ireland Secretary Dr Mo Mowlam for adopting a different stance. She has told McBride's parents that she believes the soldiers should be expelled from the army for their crime. This has brought her into conflict with her Cabinet colleague, Defence Secretary George Robertson, who agreed with his military chiefs that the men should be allowed to remain in uniform. Norman Tebbit joined the row at the weekend. In the Mail on Sunday he told the "pro-republican" Mowlam to "take her nose out of his [Robertson's] affairs" and let the "fine young men" get back into uniform.

It is difficult to give a factual account of what happened on that tragic September morning in 1992 when McBride died, because virtually every detail remains a matter of bitter dispute. What can be said with certainty is that 18-year-old McBride was accosted by a foot patrol in the New Lodge area. It was, by most accounts, just a routine check. But the soldiers later said they stopped him because they suspected he looked nervous and was concealing something in his clothing.

While Fisher and Wright, guns cocked, took up the normal defensive positions to watch for snipers, Sergeant Mark Swift, the patrol leader, searched McBride. The quality of this body search has become the key matter of contention. If he was properly searched, as the original evidence suggested, what happened minutes later was cold-blooded murder. If he was partially searched, or not searched at all, then the soldiers' supporters argue the shooting was justifiable.

What is certain is that McBride, before, during or after the search, suddenly ran off and was pursued by Fisher and Wright. They claimed that they believed McBride was carrying a bulky object under his coat — which could have been a coffee-jar bomb — and therefore shot him twice, in the back. They also later claimed they feared he might be leading them into an ambush.



At their trial in 1994, the judge, Lord Justice Kelly, dismissed the soldiers story as a "concoction" of lies. He said Fisher had "deliberately lied" and considered Wright's evidence even more frail. Both men were "untruthful and evasive". In the judge's words, McBride had been a "cheeky young man" who had run away after "an impudent confrontation".

In other words, the court rejected any notion that McBride was carrying a bomb. He had been murdered. Yet Kennedy, the military top brass and the Daily Mail, along with several Scottish papers, base their whole case for the soldiers' defence on evidence which the judge has already considered. They rightly point out that the most vital witness of all, Sergeant Swift, wasn't called. But his original statement to the RUC after the shooting was surely unhelpful and would have confirmed the judge's view that the soldiers were lying.

Swift told the police that he ordered McBride to empty his pockets on to a nearby wall. Surely, though, if he suspected the lad to have been hiding something, such as a bag, he would have asked him to show that first. In a new statement made in June this year, Swift told how McBride had grabbed his earpiece and pushed him to the ground. Strangely, this act of violence, which would confirm the notion that McBride was a terrorist, wasn't even mentioned by Swift at the time.

The McBride family have watched in alarm as the high profile campaign to win freedom for Fisher and Wright has gradually intensified. They understood that the men would be released as part of the peace process, but were upset to discover it was done by special intervention outside the terms of that agreement. Now they cannot understand why convicted murderers should be allowed to remain soldiers. Since their release the men have been officially on leave and therefore receiving army pay.

It is clear that the men should have been dismissed years ago. Kennedy is wrong to suggest that they were punished for "doing their duty". Soldiers dealing with unarmed civilians must obey the civil law. If not, then none of us is safe. To loose uniformed teenagers with guns on to our streets and tell them they have a right to kill is an open door to fascism. Yesterday's Army Board decision is therefore scandalous.

Express yourself

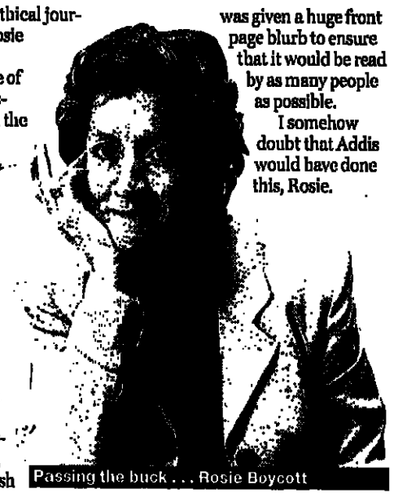
In a surprising note at the end of her weekly column in Saturday's Express, editor Rosie Boycott wrote: "As many of you may have seen, Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman won their libel case against the Express on Sunday over an article published a year ago. As the new editor of the the Express titles (daily and Sunday) I would like to reassure you I would not have published the article and I apologise to them both."

That unprecedented public snub to her predecessor, Richard Addis, would have made him blush. After all, he was the man who made much of his commitment to ethical journalism. Yet here was Rosie trumping him.

So how does St Rosie of Ludgate explain the disgusting tripe published the next day, in the Express on Sunday, about Peter Mandelson? It was the most prurient of stories, laden with innuendo, which was, I understand, obtained in dubious circumstances involving deception. There was not the least crumb of genuine public interest in it.

Not content with giving it a full page inside, this meretricious rubbish was given a huge front page blurb to ensure that it would be read by as many people as possible.

I somehow doubt that Addis would have done this, Rosie.



Passing the buck . . . Rosie Boycott

Gale force wind

During one of those brief exchanges of opinion which are the hallmark of soundbite radio, I found myself arguing once again with Roger Gale, the MP who has set himself up as the media's conscience.

It was, he said, a disgrace that the press were continuing to pry into the affairs of Ron Davies, the MP who resigned as Welsh Secretary for a mysterious lapse of judgment.

When I suggested that, despite some lurid reporting, newspapers had a legitimate reason to continue their inquiries, Gale protested that Davies, having resigned and made a statement in the Commons, had discharged his obligations to the House and that should be the end of it.

It was only as the presenter dismissed us I realised the absurdity of Gale's notion. It implies that an MP is answerable only to his or her colleagues in Parliament. Once elected, MPs no longer have any obligations to the people. They are members of a club and, as long as they play by its rules, they should not be accountable to the public.

This is plainly undemocratic and you might think that the irascible Gale is a maverick figure who talks for no one but himself on such matters. In that case, you would be very mistaken indeed.

Francis Wheen is away

Chief Executive

Due to the retirement of the current Chief Executive, Alan Hilton, the Authority seeks an experienced management professional for the position of Chief Executive of this independent Special Health Authority, funded by the National Health Service (NHS).

The PRESCRIPTION PRICING AUTHORITY is responsible for providing prescribing/dispensing information which is the basis for payments amounting to over £5 billion per year to 13,000 dispensing contractors within the primary health care service in England and for the PACT and IPS information services provided to the NHS Executive, Health Authorities and over 27,000 GPs.

As the Accountable Officer, the Chief Executive will provide strategic and operational leadership in advising the Authority and managing an annual budget of £45m and approximately 2,000 staff.

To meet the challenges of this demanding role, it is likely that the candidates will have:-

- a successful track record of service and organisational development in a complex environment;
- a proven ability to develop a strategic approach to business planning;
- excellent communication, presentation and negotiation skills;
- strong leadership qualities.

Salary within the range £55,000 - £84,500

Information packs and application forms are available from the Human Resources Division, Prescription Pricing Authority, Bridge House, 152 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 6SN or by telephoning (0191) 203 5333.

Closing date: 20 November 1998.

Interviews will be held on 16 December 1998.

The PPA is an equal opportunities employer.

PPA

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American Youth Work Center seeks enthusiastic, 21-30s, experienced in youth work, social work, child welfare, youth justice, probation or learning difficulties, for 18 months paid practical training in the United States. Placements available in New England, Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

Professionals with experience of working with developmentally disabled population are strongly encouraged to apply.

Applicants experienced in work with disturbed adolescents in residential or wilderness settings are also welcome.

Black applicants especially welcome. Qualified COUPLES particularly needed to work in residential/day treatment program for emotionally handicapped students and developmentally disabled children and youth in New England.

For further information and application form, please send S.A.E. (9" x 6", 1st class stamp) as soon as possible to:

Valerie Sutcliffe, AYWC, CVYS, Castle Community Rooms, 2 Tower Street, Leicester, LE1 6WR

DEADLINE for completed applications: Friday, December 18, 1998
INTERVIEWS: London week of 15th February, 1999

Meeting the greatest challenge of community care

Tulip

Tulip is a charitable voluntary organisation, set up to develop and provide unique and quality services for people experiencing profound and long-term mental distress, which are therapeutic, sensitively address cultural difference and give hope of positive change.

Tulip has achieved national recognition for creating highly innovative community mental health services. We are based in Haringey, North London, with new developments in Newham and Enfield, all of which have rich and culturally diverse populations.

Executive Director c. £35,000

We are appointing a successor to Deborah Davidson, who is leaving to lead a new national initiative, having established and led Tulip for the first ten years. We are looking for someone to build on these achievements and shape the future of Tulip, someone with a pioneering spirit, and the resourcefulness and determination to fulfil this pivotal role.

You will need to combine vision, creativity and drive with the ability to be, all, to be a team player. If you are prepared to set the agenda in mental health services, keen at networking and are excited by the thought of leading Tulip into the new millennium, then this post will offer you the challenge and stimulation you seek.

For an application form and a job pack, please contact the Charity People Response Centre quoting reference TP/6837/A on 0171 636 1008 or write to 66 Bedford Place, London WC1B 5JL. e-mail: response@charitypeople.co.uk. Fax: 0171 242 1839. Closing date: 25 November, 12pm.

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Assistant Project Director

Joint Reviews of Social Services

c.£50,000 *London & Regional Portfolio*

The Audit Commission and Department of Health and the Welsh office work together to improve social services through their developing programme of Joint Reviews. This examines the overall performance of each local Social Services authority - identifying and promoting best value to achieve better service delivery and value for money.

In this senior high profile appointment reporting to the Project Director, your principal objective will be to project manage, and bring to a successful timely conclusion, a programme of twelve reviews each year.

Primary accountabilities of the role include: leading and guiding reviewers; assuring the quality of reports and their presentation; maintaining close liaison with Chief Executives, Social Services Directors and key regional stakeholders to ensure that review findings are clearly understood and followed up; and continuously monitoring and implementing the skills development needs of review teams to optimise resources.

In such a highly sensitive area, personal credibility in a wide range of settings will be crucial to your success. Therefore your background must include a track record of achievement either as a senior social services *executive or consultancy. The ability to manage complex projects* simultaneously with all the associated political pressures is essential, together with the necessary confidence and sensitivity to handle the media. Of equal importance will be your team leadership qualities in ensuring the quality and efficient delivery of projects. The job will be based in London with the possibility of a regional location and will involve travel across England and Wales.

A contract will be offered for up to three years with options for secondment or direct employment.

For an informal discussion about the role, please telephone Andrew Webster on 0171 630 0105.

For an information pack please contact Matt Malone, Audit Commission, Nicholson House, Lime Kiln Close, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS34 8SU or telephone 0117 923 6757 (0117 975 7964 -24 hour answerphone).

Closing date: 30 November 1998.

Assessment date: one day, week commencing 7 December 1998.

Interview date: 15-17 December 1998.

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER AND A NO SMOKING ORGANISATION.

AUDIT COMMISSION

Social Services Inspectorate Department of Health

Joint Reviews of Local Authority Social Services

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Cumberlow

A Partnership of NCH Action for Children and the Peper Harow Foundation

CUMBERLOW COMMUNITY LTD

Cumberlow is a specialist resource designed to care for and treat young people with extraordinary needs and who present exceptionally challenging behaviour. Our holistic treatment approach including an education and activity programme is based on psychodynamic theory and the best principles of residential practice.

In line with our commitment to promote good modelling and a balanced structure we wish to appoint a:

FEMALE DEPUTY DIRECTOR £33,440 (45) - £36,399 (49)

To work alongside the Director in managing this outstanding resource.

The successful candidate will have appropriate levels of residential management experience supported by an understanding of social work. You will play a full role in managing and developing a multi-disciplinary team with special responsibility for:

- Management of the residential task
- Training, Recruitment and Supervision
- Policy Practice and Procedure
- Overview of high quality therapeutic provision
- Continuation of the pursuit of excellence
- Promotion of Anti-discriminatory practice and Equal Opportunities.

An excellent remuneration package includes external analytical supervision as well as the possibility of subsidised accommodation.

This position is a designated G.O.Q. post and Section 7.2 (E) of the Sex Discrimination Act applies. In line with the need for a good Psychodynamic based parenting model we are looking for a professional female to join at management level.

Closing date for completed applications:- 30th November 1998

Interviews week commencing:- 10th December 1998

For more information and an application form please send a large SAE to: Mrs Audrey Phillips - *Senior Administrative Assistant, Cumberlow Community Ltd. 24 Chalfont Road, London SE25 4AA.*

Hot

Shockheaded Peter
Phelim McDermott and Julian Crouch's brilliant adaptation of Struwwelpeter's shocking and fantastic tales of unruly children. Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry (01203 524524), till Saturday.

Amadeus
David Suchet is a superb Salieri, waging war against God and Mozart in Peter Shaffer's metaphysical whodunnit. Peter Hall directs. Old Vic, London (0171-494 5373), till January.

Our Country's Good
Timberlake Wertenbaker's classic about convicts in Australia's first theatre production. Max Stafford Clark directs. Liverpool Everyman (0151-709 4776), till Saturday.



Faust among equals... Neil McKinven plays a councillor who sells his soul for power in 7:84's new satire, Dissent PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD

Dissent

What Dissent does very successfully is dramatise the process by which grassroots support is traded for influence inside the party. By the end, Gray is diminished in the eyes of his anarcho-punk daughter and her mother, a tireless community-education worker. But equally he has demonstrated that he can play hard-ball with the fixers and spin doctors who sought to manipulate his career.

"The party is a broad church but sometimes you just have to sit where you're told," says Gray's political mentor, in one of the jokes that define the play's intent. Greenhorn identifies a cold heart behind the touchy-feely language of the Blair project, though he is clever enough to ensure that Gray does not become simply an automaton dancing to the tune of his party-issue bleeper. The boy has charm, but his dilemma is the old one about the price of power. "There is a bit of Macbeth, in that the character is tainted by what he has to go through," says Greenhorn. Ali and Brenton obviously had a similar thought when they called their Gordon Brown character Macduff.

In his previous hit comedy, Passing Places, which is being developed as a BBC film, Greenhorn tackled Scottish identity through the eyes of two unemployed teenagers who embark on a highly implausible but hilarious road trip in a Lada with a surfboard strapped to the roof. He leaves this grand theme of identity well alone in Dissent, which considers the "how" of a Scottish parliament rather than the "why". This may be because he considers the arguments in favour unanswerable, but another reading suggests that the new parliament is a function of politicians' ability to expand to fit the space available. *Already Greenhorn sees signs that* the grand purpose behind the parliament has been diluted.

"The yes-yes vote was more exciting for me than the general election," he says. "But it's almost as if the politicians have tried to dampen that down. It's like they are saying, 'Leave all the arguments to us now.' I think what happens to the parliament in the early days will determine how it looks for the foreseeable future. They have just one chance to get it right. Having our hopes raised and then dashed would be more damaging to the national psyche than not having them raised at all."

With Ugly Rumours, Ali and Brenton were accused of being premature in their attack on New Labour. Greenhorn has gone one further and got his retaliation in before the Scottish parliament is even elected. Like many Scots, he desperately wants to believe in the dawning of a democratic Scotland, but can't overcome a suspicion that politicians' personal ambitions will spoil the dream. They usually do.

Dissent is on tour in Scotland till December 5. Details: 0141-334 6686.

he made his British debut at the National Theatre. He's since formed a strong relationship with Britain's *own wunderkind, Sam Mendes*, at London's Donmar. "Sam and I have similar tastes but different ideas" says Crowley, who is now an associate director at the theatre.

Not surprisingly, there is a bit of a buzz around Crowley. Even if all his productions haven't hit the mark, they all have a distinctive vision, an ability to be both ultra-cool and emotionally rich at the same time. A Crowley production is likely to be like early Robert Lepage, shot through with an Irish Catholic sensibility. You can see why Katie Mitchell invited him to direct whatever he fancied at The Other Place in Stratford. The result was Shadows, a trinity of neglected short plays by Synge and Yates linked by the theme of death and presented with a spine-tingling, stripped simplicity.


Don't call me kid... John Crowley

Talking about the dynamics of the Donmar's cubic space, Crowley shows the kind of fervour that most men of his age reserve for football and cars. He's endlessly fascinated by why an object seems elegant in one place but not another. It's all *part of his ability to deliver* a theatrical experience that abounds with showmanship but is never vulgar.

Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised, given his elder brother's profession. Bob left Ireland for drama school in England when John was four, but his kid brother spent many a happy holiday visiting, where he was not only exposed to a huge amount of theatre but also to the influence of someone who was exceptionally visually sophisticated.

"Sitting on the coat-tails of someone else's life can be a very rich experience" he says. It also brought other undoubted benefits for a would-be director: while most aspiring directors are still wrestling with GCSE English, the teenage Crowley was quietly sitting in on rehearsals with a Who's Who of British theatre directors.

"I've soaked up a lot from Bob about distillation and purity," says Crowley, who admits that his brother was the hardest person to convince when he announced his intention to become a director. "He'll never really talk to me about what I've directed, but occasionally he'll just make one or two points about the staging. It's a bit like seeing the atom split before your eyes."

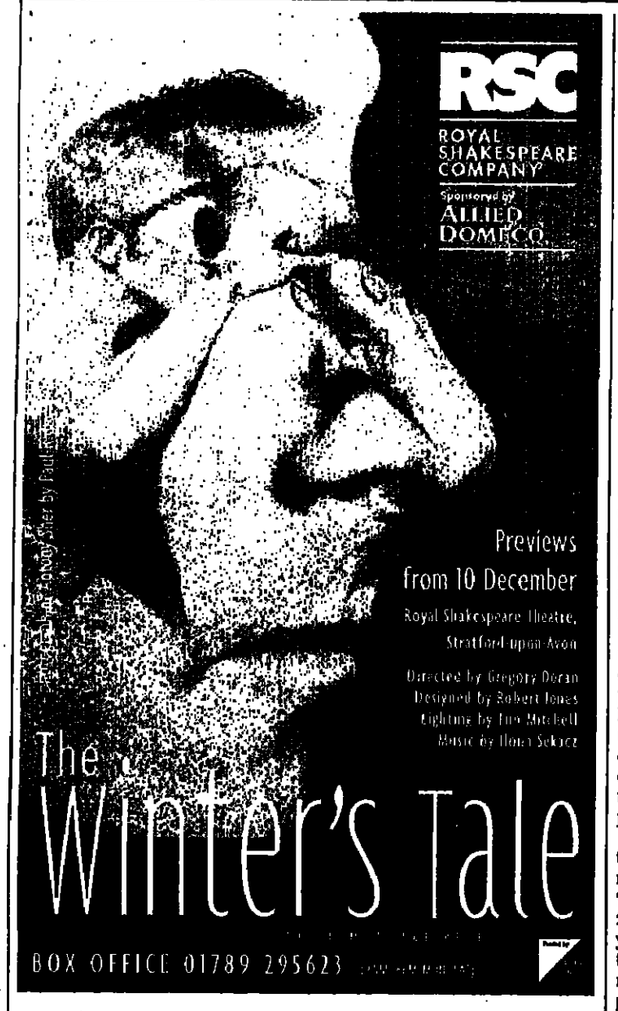
For Into The Woods, the two are meeting not as brothers but as equals with a job to do. It probably comes at a good time for Crowley junior, who says: "I didn't have a doubt that I'd be a huge success, not for a moment until I was 26."

He's had to do a lot of growing up in the past three years. Arriving in London after non-stop hits in Ireland, he had a hard landing with his debut at the National. Fair *Ladies At A Game Of Poem Cards*, an adaptation of a Japanese puppet play, was not well-received. "My relationship to the work shifted: I stopped being this eager young person who expected to be patted on the head all the time. For the first time I realised that I didn't have to buy into the idea that I was a young director on a ladder that would take me from small spaces to big institutions and from there to opera and film, picking up awards on the way, until I ended up as a big fat sad bastard."

He shakes his boyish face with its frame of prematurely greying hair. "I think it was the saving of me."

Into The Woods is at the Donmar, London WC2 (0171-369 1732) from Friday.

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The Guardian INTERACTIVE

While old lefties whinge about the rotten state of Westminster, Scotland is worrying about the next threat. By **Eddie Gibb**

Temptation of a nation

Politics *and* jokes in the same show: it was almost like old times. While Tariq Ali and Howard Brenton have been mauled by the critics for failing to land even the weakest of shots with their New Labour satire Ugly Rumours, Scottish writer Stephen Greenhorn has penned a sharp comedy that looks at the Government from a very different angle.

Sure, there are jokes about pagers and spin-doctors, but Greenhorn has demonstrated that these trappings of power are not the only things about New Labour worth satirising. Unlike Ugly Rumours (which opened in London this week), Dissent does not dwell on the personalities of New Labour but focuses on the motives that drive politicians up the greasy pole.

It is particularly interesting that this streetwise comedy comes from radical Scottish theatre company 7:84. The company is celebrating its 25th anniversary, and for 18 of those years it operated under a Conservative government, which provided a ready target for its populist brand of political theatre. In Greenhorn, who is 34, it has found a writer who has lived almost all his adult life under the Conservatives. As such, he is able to look at a Labour government with fresh eyes. Unlike Brenton and Ali, he cannot be accused of being stuck in seventies radicalism.

Greenhorn has set his comedy on Scotland's West Coast, where the political scene is more complicated than simply a power struggle between Brown and Blair. Here he can play with the tensions between Glasgow's unreconstructed socialist grassroots and the party modernisers, and the lure of the Edinburgh parliament. This is a part of the world where the real Labour Party has done a splendid job of sending itself up.

First there was the attempt to unseat Glasgow provost Pat Lally, whose alleged misdemeanours included taking a bunch of chums to Edinburgh to see the fireworks at the Tattoo. Then an embarrassing Unison strike allowed hot-to-Trot union organiser Roddy Slorach to rekindle memories of loony-left town-hall politics. And now disgraced Lanarkshire MP Tommy Graham is threatening to name names in the Commons in an apparent attempt to take his political enemies down with him.

With all the Old Labour in-fighting, it's not surprising that Westminster is now trying to parachute in its own people. "The Labour leadership is pretty good at looking after its own," says Bill Miller, professor of politics at Glasgow University. "They wanted to avoid the Edinburgh parliament looking like Glasgow council in another place."

This is the kind of manoeuvring that provides the backdrop for Dissent. The play fires a broadside at the new generation of pragmatists whom the electoral landslide brought to power at least five years ahead of schedule. The first scene contains a jibe about young Labour MP Jim Murphy, who surprised no one more than himself by overturning one of the Tories' safest seats.

The embodiment of New Labour in Dissent is Paul Gray, a city councillor with his eye on a seat at Holyrood. Gray, who is played by Neil McKinven, has something of Murphy about him, while students of Scottish politics may recognise traces of Glasgow city council's young leader, Frank McAveety, who was charged with the thankless job of uniting the city's warring Labour factions.

Dissent centres on Gray's deal with the grey men of New Labour. Identified by the party machine as a Scottish parliamentary contender, first he must do some painful cheese-paring on a community project to earn his New Labour spurs. After successfully selling the cuts, he is rewarded with the high-profile but delicate job of chairing a committee considering a motorway by-pass. Get that one right and his chances of a crack at Holyrood will be greatly increased.

Gray's decision to enter into this Faustian pact sets in motion a chain of events that embroils his family and friends in an unpleasant bout of back-stabbing. The question is not *if* he will be politically damaged by this attempt to secure a place on the candidate list, but *how much*.

Bill Speirs, general secretary of the Scottish Trades Union Congress and chairman of the 7:84 board, believes that playing Scottish politics could be an increasingly painful game in coming months. "There is no doubt that there will be more damage done to political people in the run-up to the Scottish parliament," he says.

The Crowley brothers vowed never to work together. Then along came Sondheim. By **Lyn Gardner**

Side by side

When director John Crowley got his hands on Sondheim's fairy-tale musical Into The Woods, he knew who he wanted to design it — his big brother Bob. The trouble was, the two had vowed never to become a double act. With their 16-year age gap, they were almost in different generations.

"Nonetheless," recalls Crowley, "I had this awful gut feeling that Bob was the only designer I wanted to entrust with the job. It's such a difficult musical. But when I asked him, he recoiled as if I'd just asked him out on a date, and told me not to be ridiculous." So how did he persuade Bob to change his mind? "I didn't. He persuaded himself. Over the next few weeks I could see he was flirting with the idea. He kept asking me who I was going to get to do it."

A few weeks into rehearsal, the relationship appears to be holding up well. "I think he'd thought that my view of him would be diminished if I saw the magician doing his tricks. But actually it made me more amazed. He brings so much that I feel rather spoiled."

At 29, Crowley has gone through the Irish and British theatre scenes like a knife through butter. He says that at 17 he stopped watching plays and films as "a distraction" but with an eye on what he was going to do. By 24 he was directing The Crucible on the main stage of the Abbey in Dublin. Several hits later, he realised he was in danger of stagnating. Taking heed of James Joyce's advice that you "need silence, cunning and exile to succeed as an Irishman", he headed for England.

He didn't exactly begin at the bottom. On his arrival three years ago,

Notes & Queries

Edited by Joseph Harker

N&Q on the web nq.guardian.co.uk/

Undiplomatic immunity • Super gas • Empire state • Rotten rings and smiling circles

Has a fire station ever burned down?

❂ In May 1941, the Central Fire Station in Bootle, Merseyside, was bombed, and the upper floors burned out; at the last moment, water became available and the fire was held away from the appliance room at street level, though the station was out of commission for months. In London, Wandsworth fire station was set alight in November 1940 and Redcross St in December.
A B Sainsbury, London SE3.

❂ Our village station was badly damaged by fire a few years ago. I believe there were firemen there when it started and one of them asked a neighbour to use her phone to call the fire brigade.
David Holmes, Yatton, Bristol.

● In May 1973, at the Stevenston site of ICI, a fire started in a large open-air stock of nitrocellulose drums. The company's on-site fire station was next to the store and was put out of action within three minutes of the fire starting. Two firemen were burned leaving the station, as the roof was already alight and flames surrounded it; one died later in hospital. All the company's fire appliances except one were lost in the blaze; heat from the fire destroyed or damaged 30 other buildings, and there were 40 further casualties. This incident led to much subsequent research into better packaging, and appropriate safety distances between a nitrocellulose store and other facilities.
Alan Tyldesley, Bootle, Merseyside.

● This query reminded me of a tape of Ancient Music on the Aquincum Organ that I purchased in the Museum of Budapest History. The accompanying notes state that this is "the only organ from Antiquity in which so many of the individual parts have been preserved. The instrument was presented in 228 to the fire brigade by one of the foremost citizens of the city [Aquincum], Gaius Iulius Viatorinus. The inflagration [sic] which swept through the settlement in 294 did not spare the headquarters of the fire brigade either. Thus, the leather and wooden parts of the organ were consumed in the flames."
Gwen Herzog, Bristol.



At the ready . . . Fireman Sam would know a thing or two about blazes at fire stations. PHOTOGRAPH: BBC ENTERPRISES

If I were given a loaded revolver and diplomatic immunity, would it be all right to go and shoot General Pinochet?

● That depends on whether Pinochet is correct in his belief that capital punishment and lynch law are morally justifiable.
Michael Ghirelli, Hilleaden, Bucks.

● By all means, go ahead. But who needs diplomatic immunity? Just change your name by deed poll to (say) "Ernest Saunders" and you would be a free woman before you could say "mass torture in Santiago stadium". Good luck.
Peter Bradshaw, Liverpool.

Without success, I have asked attendants at numerous petrol stations about the difference between unleaded and super plus unleaded petrol, and what is to be gained from using a grade that is 15p per litre more expensive. Does anyone know?

● Super unleaded has a higher Octane rating (98) than normal unleaded (95). Achieving this additional rating requires more refining and expensive additives, now that the cheaper lead additive cannot be used. It also attracts a higher rate of duty. All new cars sold in the UK since 1987 have been required to run on normal unleaded fuel and super unleaded has no effect on these cars. However, for older high-performance cars designed to run on 98 Octane petrol, a noticeable decrease in performance results if the engine is retuned to run on 95 petrol.
Matthew Guite, Staines, Middx.

Following the break-up of the USSR, which country now has the largest empire?

● Andrew Rice's answer is unsatisfactory (Notes & Queries, September 23). Empire is defined as the domination of one state over others. The largest today is obviously that of the US. Consider its power and influence over the North and South American continent as well as the Caribbean, excluding Cuba. In the Pacific area one can add the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia and Australia. Japan has an American garrison. In the Middle East: Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt. As for Europe, US control is sometimes shaky but certainly the UK and Italy can rarely act independently on decisive questions.
V S Petheram, Buckfastleigh, Devon.

● Britain, the US and France have the most colonies remaining on the United Nations Decolonisation Committee list of non-self-governing territories. Looking at maritime resources, it's still the US and France. In Europe, France only has 340,000 square kilometres of Exclusive Economic Zone. But with overseas territories in every ocean of the world, this expands to over 11 million square kilometres. This ocean empire includes French Polynesia, with over 5 million square kilometres of EEZ — lots of fish and seabed minerals to exploit, in an area larger than Western Europe.
Nic Maclellan, Suva, Fiji.

Who sent the first e-mail? When? What did it say?

Ray Tomlinson, an engineer at Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc. (BBN, Cambridge, Mass.) sent the first e-mail message between two computers in 1972. (Tomlinson is also credited for creating the @ sign in e-mail addresses). I have no idea what the contents were, but if the first e-mail was anything like the billions that followed, it was probably: a) some unrequested information about a BBN product; b) an unsolicited invitation to visit an x-rated Website; c) a message asking whether the recipient got Ray's earlier e-mail.
Stephen Saunders, New York.

What can I do with old mobile phones? The phone company tells me to throw them away, and that there is no recycling unit. Any suggestions?

❂ In addition to the answers given (Notes & Queries, October 21), British Telecom operates a Take Back Scheme. Owners of unwanted mobiles can take them to one of BT's communication centres, which will sort them for manufacturers to recycle. The coordinator of this scheme, Paul Danes, can be reached on 01420-687251.
Chris Lowe, Tyler Hill, Kent.

● The question is not only what can I do with my analogue mobile phone when I convert to digital, or digital when I go satellite, but what can I do with my analogue television, my analogue radio, my tape-deck, etc? Recent research in Australia indicates that no one has even started thinking about the waste-disposal implications of digitalisation. Perhaps there should be a rule that if you want to manufacture a new technology, then you become responsible for getting rid of the old one.
Cameron Tonkin, EcoDesign Foundation, Rozelle, NSW, Australia.

● On the assumption that they no longer work, give them to people who travel regularly on trains.
Roger Pain, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

● Hang them up.
John Tuener, Toronto, Canada.

Why is it only the finger tips and toes that go wrinkly when you have been in the bath too long? Would the rest of me go wrinkly if I stayed longer?

● It is not that we have more skin on our fingers and toes (Notes & Queries, October 7), it's that we have no oil-producing cells in those parts, so the skin gets waterlogged. We inherit a lack of oil cells either because it would have made our ancestors' fingers and toes slippery and they'd have fallen out of the trees, or perhaps the oil cells were left out to make room for extra nerve endings.
Ian McCallion, Romsey, Hants.

It seems impossible to find buttermilk — to drink, that is — in the UK. What happens to liquid left over after butter is churned? And where can I find it?

● Buttermilk, essential for my soda bread, was made by Raines Dairy Foods of Enfield, Middlesex, and bought at Waitrose. The people at the dairy counter contribute to its elusive quality by moving it to another part of the department at least once a week, but they always own up to where they have hidden it.
Andrew Dooley, Hildenborough, Kent.

Why are rings (paedophile, drug) nasty, but circles (family, friends) nice?

● A vicious circle is an obvious exception but I'm not clear into which camp a fairy ring would fall.
Colin Armstrong, Preston, Lancs.

Parents

Happy days

A parents' guide to fun with the kids

Lesley Garrett



Opera singer Lesley Garrett, 43, lives in north London with her husband Peter and children, Jeremy, five, and Chloe, four. This month she starts a BBC TV show, Lesley Garrett Tonight, releases an album, Lesley Garrett, and appears with the English National Opera at the Coliseum in London.

Best day out: This year I sang at the Gala at Althorp in honour of Diana, Princess of Wales. A brilliant day. Because I was only singing four numbers, early on, we took the children knowing we could leave when they were tired. It was their first open-air concert. The weather was awful, really muddy, which they loved! Then the sun came out. We were with friends and the atmosphere was wonderful. The children collapsed at about 10.30pm. It was the first time they saw what I do.

Best day in: Last year I had a tree-house built. It's tiny, just high enough for Jeremy and Chloe. When it's rainy, we hide out in it with a picnic!

Worst day ever: We were driving up to Yorkshire to visit my family about a year ago, through torrential rain. The roads kept being closed because of flooding, putting us onto smaller and smaller roads. The children were fed-up with being cooped up in the car. It was cold, wet and dark. We'd run out of food, and all the cafes were closed because of flooding. We were tired and quite frightened. Eventually we found a pub that was actually open — and full of other stranded people. We holed up there till the police said the roads were clear. We'd been in the car for nine hours.

Favourite book: Chloe loves the Fireman Sam series, and Jeremy's is Twinkle Twinkle Chocolate Bar, Rhymes For The Very Young, compiled by John Foster.

Favourite food: Tomato ketchup. On everything.

Most successful toy: Lego and a Luke Skywalker lightsabre. Chloe loves weapons, especially swords.

Most awkward question: Since a very close friend of mine died, Chloe has continually questioned us on death and heaven, usually at 3am and needing an answer NOW! The most difficult is: "When you die do you keep the same head and legs?"

Advice for other parents: Don't be ashamed of your pre-existing life, but work your children into it. They will benefit from sharing it. Enjoy every minute, even making the best of downi times.

Interview by Annie Taylor

When there's a disabled child in the family, brothers and sisters can feel forgotten. **Joanna Moorhead** on plans to create a support group just for them

Why's she so special?

Nothing embarrasses a teenager as much as his or her family. But when that family includes a child with special needs, the potential for embarrassment is immense. "For a while, I didn't take friends home at all," says Linzi Carlin, 20, whose profoundly disabled sister Erica is four years her junior. "People who didn't know her would ask too many questions, and I couldn't deal with it. I just wanted our family to be like everyone elses."

It never was. "Having a child with special needs is a tremendous shock for everyone involved," says Linzi. "After Erica got meningitis as a baby, nothing was ever the same again for any of us. She had been a bright little thing, always gurgling and smiling. Suddenly she just lay in her cot doing nothing. It was such a shock — she had changed so much.

"Planning things became impossible. You never knew what was going to happen, you had to expect the unexpected at every turn. Days out and holidays were fraught with difficulties. We once flew to South Africa via Paris, and were held up there for six hours in the middle of the night without Erica's wheelchair, which had been lost. There was only one place open for food, and it didn't have anything she could eat. Wherever we went, people stared at us — that made me really angry."

Not being able to get enough of her parents' attention was another frustration for Linzi. "I remember once crying my eyes out because I wanted them, and no one came," she says. "I suppose they knew I was fine really, but I'd seen how Erica always got their attention when she cried, and I didn't understand why it didn't work for me."

Linzi's difficulties were compounded by the fact she didn't know anyone she could really open up to. What she'd have liked, she says, would have been the opportunity to talk to other youngsters whose siblings had special needs: "There are so many issues that only they would understand." But she didn't know anyone in a similar situation.

Changing that is the main item on the agenda this weekend at a conference that aims to press for greater recognition for the needs of siblings of special needs children. "In the United States they have their own national organisation," says Monica McCaffrey, who is coordinating the conference. "Here, although individual organisations like Barnardo's may have projects for siblings, there's no umbrella group. That's something we hope to set up."

Monica believes that those with disabled brothers or sisters often have their own needs overlooked. She speaks from personal experience — one brother died as a baby from cystic fibrosis, and another brother has Down's syndrome. "There's this tremendous sense of grief and loss in a family like mine," she says. "Often it's something you haven't had a chance to work through because, quite simply, everyone else in your family is too busy dealing with their own emotions to help with yours."

There are also practical issues. "I remember times when I'd leave homework on the table and my brother would damage it," she says. "When he reached puberty, he grew really strong — but didn't realise how much he could hurt us. He'd get angry and pull my hair really hard, or squeeze my hand until I cried. I was often frightened.

"I also had to do a lot of domestic things to help my parents. I had to lie down beside him to help him sleep at night. It made me feel a bit resentful that I couldn't watch TV in the evenings. And when friends came round we couldn't get out a jigsaw or paints, because he'd mess them up."

Monica agrees with Linzi Carlin that missing out on time with parents is the biggest issue for siblings. "Having a brother or sister with special needs is a bit like having a newborn in the family who never grows up," she says. "Your parents are constantly busy attending to his or her needs. Time to just talk to your mum or dad, which every child needs, is an impossible luxury.

"Every outing, every holiday, every day spent at home is dictated by the needs of the affected child. You don't have 'normal' family activities because of the logistics involved — you can't just go off to McDonald's or the cinema together. There's virtually no spontaneity in your family life. And often there's not enough space, either. Many siblings find themselves constantly surrounded by noise and disruption."



Sibling rivalry . . . Val Doherty with Francesca and Charlotte. Val says: 'Francesca hates the fact she and Charlotte are treated so differently'

PHOTOGRAPH: GERAINT RADCLIFFE

That scenario rings a lot of bells with Val Doherty, mother of 11-year-old Francesca and nine-year-old Charlotte, who has spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy. She says she's constantly trying to find "quality" time with Francesca. "I spend a lot of time with Charlotte, especially as I'm a single parent, but it's just doing all the chores. I try to explain that to Francesca, but from her point of view it just looks as though I'm spending a lot of time with Charlotte and not much with her. "Francesca hates the fact she and Charlotte are treated so differently. People are always coming to the house to see Charlotte because of her disability. Although some are interested in Francesca too, others virtually ignore her. Also, now Francesca is older, she wants to go out sometimes in the evening. For the next mum, picking her up in the car would be straightforward. But for me, with Charlotte, it's a major expedition."

Something else that's often missing in families with special needs children is fun. "Having fun is what childhood is about," explains Monica. "But opportunities for it can be few and far between. Parents are often so weighed down by stress and worry they completely miss out on the lighter moments of life, and that's a tragedy for any youngster."

And as children with disabled siblings grow up, genetic issues may need to be discussed. "As an older teenager I had lots of questions about whether I could pass on Down's syndrome or cystic fibrosis to my children," she says. "It worried me a lot, but I had no one to ask." Nor did she have anyone to talk to about her brother's future. "I wanted him to have the chance to live on his own and to work, and I wasn't sure whether he'd have them. And I wondered, too, about who would care for him when my parents got too old."

One thing siblings like Monica, Linzi and Francesca usually agree on is that, however difficult life has been at times, they wouldn't be without their sibling. "Sometimes you find someone who does wish their disabled brother or sister had never been born, but it's rare," says Monica. "Most of us feel we're different people because of them, that we're more understanding and sensitive than we would have been. Some of us work in a field that's directly related to our experiences of growing up with a special needs child. "I love my brother very much — we're very close, and I can't imagine him not being around. All I wish is that I'd had someone outside my family to talk to while I was growing up. It wouldn't have solved all the problems, but it would definitely have made a difference."

For more information on Monica McCaffrey's conference and her plans to set up a national sibling organisation, contact her on 01535 644419 or at monica@oxenhope.demon.co.uk

Read on...

In print

Brothers, Sisters And Learning Disability: A Guide For Parents, by Rosemary Tozer, BILD Publications, Wolverhampton Road, Kidderminster, Worcs DY10 3PPO

Contact A Family, factsheet on siblings available from Contact A Family, 170 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P OHA

Views From Our Shoes — Growing Up With A Brother Or Sister With Special Needs, edited by Donald Meyer, published in the US by Woodbine House

On the net

http://www.chmc.org/departmt/sibsupp

Telling your children about drugs is tough enough. But what if you are among the 10 per cent using them yourself? **Frances Rickford** finds out

No smoke without fire

News this week from the Forensic Science Service that 10 per cent of the British workforce tested *positive for illegal drugs suggests* that recreational drug use in this country is now as popular as church attendance.

But does it harm children if their parents use drugs? The courts tend to think so. It emerged last week that Paula Yates has lost custody of her children to Bob Geldof. The grounds for the judge's decision have not been revealed, but Yates now faces a second custody battle over Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily, her two-year-old daughter by Michael Hutchence. Hutchence's *father launched proceedings for* sole custody after Yates began a relationship with an ex-heroin addict she met while being treated at a rehabilitation centre.

Schools don't look kindly on it either — but then who could blame the deputy head who last week alerted the police when a seven-year-old Glasgow boy handed over a packet of heroin because he was worried about his mum's habit.

But what about the less extreme cases? According to Jane Powell, who trains social work and other *professionals in how to assess the* risk to children in drug-using families, the key questions are: what do the parents use, how often and in what circumstances? "Rather than take a moral position, it is important to establish in what ways a parent's drug use is affecting the care of the children. For example, if someone has to raise £380 a day to score a gramme of heroin, they won't have a lot of time left to care for their child.

"On the other hand, some parents cope very well and may feel they can *manage better with a stable and* measured pattern of drug use than if they tried to go completely drug-free. We're talking mainly about people with major opiate habits of course, but I'd say it's always worth trying to look at any situation from the child's perspective."

Parents using drugs recreationally may not face the same financial or health problems as heroin addicts, but they still face dilemmas. Lucy, who is 40, has a 12-year-old son and a baby daughter. She has been using cannabis, cocaine *and Ecstasy for several years.*

"I know an enormous number of parents who use drugs," she says, "and I think we tend to police each other to make sure we don't go over the top. A couple of years ago my partner and I were taking quite a bit of cocaine when a friend of mine happened to telephone on a Saturday morning several weeks running. When I told her for the third *or fourth time that I was recover*ing from the previous night, she said, 'Not again, Lucy.' That stopped me instantly. Since the baby was born we have had coke a couple of times but it didn't feel right. I wasn't in total control. It is also getting much more difficult to take drugs at home now because my son is very knowledgeable and aware. My partner smokes a spliff in front of him, but I think he would be quite concerned if he knew we were taking anything else.

"When he was younger it was *much easier. I don't feel guilty.* I think it is better to take drugs than drink with children around. You are able to come round quicker, when you need to. Yet people think nothing of going to parties with their children and getting pissed."



Tug of love . . . Paula Yates faces a custody battle over Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily, her daughter by Hutchence, after she began a relationship with an ex-heroin addict

PHOTOGRAPH: UNIVERSAL

> 'Since the baby was born we've had coke twice but it didn't feel right'

The issue of how much to tell their children about their own drug use is a big one for parents, both because of fears about children's lack of discretion, but also because they are uncomfortable about possibly encouraging their own children to break the law. One father was having trouble deciding whether to invite his 17-year-old daughter on holiday with a group of his friends because her presence would inhibit their drug use. Others feel openness is the safest policy.

Tom is 50 and has smoked cannabis more or less daily since he was 18. He and his wife have four children, now aged between 14 and 22. "We concealed it from them for years because I couldn't rely on their confidentiality. As soon as we felt they were old enough to understand — at about 10 I think — we told each of them. *We've always taken the attitude* that if we were as open and honest as possible, they would be likely to reciprocate by being open with us.

"They were going to try things anyway. I'd rather they did it with us, which they have done. We told them heroin, morphine and crack are deadly things they play with at their peril. It's never been a problem. They are too interested in life."

Open University

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